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16-PAGE RUGBY GUIDE

NHS to get £2bn extra each year

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TONY BLAIR is planning a permanent increase of between £1.5 billion and £2 billion in the National Health Service budget next summer to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of its creation.

The Prime Minister is being urged by senior ministers, particularly Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, to divert a substantial proportion of savings from the year-long cross-Whitehall comprehensive spending reviews into a real increase in health spending. Mr Dobson, who is believed to have had a private meeting with the Prime Minister on the subject, is arguing that the NHS needs a substantial increase in its baseline budget to keep its head above water and avoid annual crises and requests for emergency funding.

Ministers also believe that more money will be needed if "Labour is to fulfil one of its five key election pledges of reducing waiting lists over the lifetime of a Parliament. The anniversary increase would enlarge the budget permanently so that all future percentage increases granted by the Treasury would be based on a higher figure. The issue is shrouded in secrecy because ministers want the announcement to be a surprise.

In his first Budget last July, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, came up with an extra £1.2 billion for the service and then in October he found a further £300 million by raiding the budgets of other departments to help to avert a winter crisis in the hospitals. Although ministers accept that there will always be a demand for extra spending on health, they say that the "sticking plaster" approach of

emergency spending packages could be partly avoided by raising the bottom line.

Mr Blair has already decided to mark the anniversary of the creation of the health service by a Labour government on July 5, 1948, with a series of speeches and events. He is understood, however, to be strongly attracted to the idea of allocating extra funds to it. Mr Brown is also understood to accept that more money will have to be injected into hospitals to cut waiting lists.

The Prime Minister is believed to have earmarked three priority areas for additional spending: health, education and public transport. Health ministers have tried to prepare their case by ordering a series of efficiency reviews to ensure that hospital beds are being used properly and to improve co-ordination between local authorities so that elderly people do not prevent the use of beds for emergency cases and life-threatening illnesses.

The comprehensive spending reviews, in which all departments have been asked to carry out a thorough study of their finances to see that it is being allocated efficiently and whether there are some items on which there should no longer be public spending, will be completed in early summer after consideration in the Public Expenditure Committee, chaired by Gordon Brown. After they are completed, departmental budgets for the rest of the Parliament will be set, but Mr Blair, Mr Brown and other ministers are already considering where additional spending, emanating from the reviews and the longer-term savings on welfare reform, could be concentrated.

Mr Brown is determined to keep a tight rein on spending and to use considerable resources to pay off national debt, arguing that debt repayments are killing the long-term prospects of extra spending. But he is understood to accept the strong political case for more spending on health, where Britain continues to lag behind many other developed nations, and education.

Letters, page 21



Relatives of protesters who were shot dead on Bloody Sunday carrying crosses with their names at a march in Londonderry yesterday. Page 2

Britain to draft final word on Saddam

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor, and Philip Webster

BRITAIN will not shrink from military action against Iraq but the Government is to draft a new United Nations resolution in an attempt to break the diplomatic impasse.

Tony Blair called President Saddam Hussein an "evil dictator" who posed a fundamental challenge to peace. He said it was vital to stop him hanging on to his remaining weapons of mass destruction or acquiring more, and Britain would not allow his games to go on for much longer.

"If we conclude that the only option to enforce the Security Council's will is military action, we will not shrink from it," he told the inaugural meeting of Labour's National Policy Forum on Saturday. His words underlined the backing the Government gave to Madeline Albright, the American Secretary of State, who held talks in London at the weekend.

She gave a warning that "the time for diplomacy is fast expiring", and said after talks with Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, that Britain and the United States stood "shoulder to shoulder".

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said force was not the preferred or early option but questions had to be asked: "What happens if we do nothing? What would happen if weapons of mass destruction were left in the hands of a brutal dictator who has used chemical and biological weapons before and could quite easily use them again? If that capability is left in his hands and the UN is humiliated, what then for international world order?"

Mr Cook said: "It looks as if diplomacy is not working. We want to leave Saddam Hussein with no doubt that we will win this struggle." He appeared to have scored a victory in talks with his US counterpart by announcing that Britain would draft the new Security Council resolution to try to force Iraq into line. This would make clear that Saddam was in breach of his obligations.

Washington has until now publicly held that no further resolution was necessary before the renewed use of force.

Last night Baghdad criticised Mr Blair for calling Saddam an "evil dictator", saying that he had resorted to "impolite" rhetoric that reflected "blurred" thinking.

Israel can retaliate, page 12
Leading article, page 21

Council tax rises face voters' veto

By our Political Editor

VOTERS are to be given the chance to reject excessive council tax increases in referendums under plans for a shake-up in local government finance to be unveiled by John Prescott within weeks.

The idea has won support from ministers as they wrestle with ways of meeting their manifesto promise to end the "crude and universal capping" of council budgets.

At the same time the Deputy Prime Minister has dropped plans for a new band of council tax for large houses. He also appears to have won his battle to prevent proportional representation being introduced for local government elections before the next election.

He is, however, seeking early legislation to require all councils to face annual elections with a third of the members coming up for election each year on a rotational basis.

Mr Prescott's review will disappoint local authority associations because it has already effectively ruled out the blanket ending of capping in the short term. But he is determined to end the present capping regime as soon as he can. The delay has been forced by the Government's commitment to remain within Conservative spending levels for two years and the absence of other democratic checks on spend-thrift councils.

Ministers first want to put in new electoral restraints on councils. Under one option to be floated in a consultation paper soon, councils which fail to meet performance targets agreed with the Audit Commission will still face capping. Those that met the targets would be rewarded with having their cap removed.

The referendum idea has gained support among key ministers. Proposals similar to it were put forward in the early years of the Thatcher Government when Michael Heseltine was Environment Secretary as ministers then grappled with ways of reforming the rates.

It would be seen as part of the drive to increase public participation in decision-making. Under the plan councils seeking to increase their council tax above limits set annually by the Chancellor of the Exchequer would have to stage a referendum. They would have to embark on a campaign to show their local voters why increased spending

IN BRIEF

Drink-drive limit warning issued

Road safety campaigners warned ministers that lower drink-drive limits were not the best way to cut traffic deaths.

Proposals will be published today to make Britain's drink-drive laws among the toughest in the world, including reducing the limit to the equivalent of one pint of beer. Pages 2, 21

Elton John for White House

Sir Elton John has been asked to lead the White House entertainment at President Clinton's dinner for Tony Blair in Washington on Thursday.

Other artists who have been approached include Sir Paul McCartney, Sting and Billy Joel and the guest list is thought to include Harrison Ford and Steven Spielberg.

Mirror Group pensions move

Mirror Group pensions scheme trustees will consider legal action against Julian Farrand, the Pensions Ombudsman, over access to documents relating to the fund. Dr Farrand has said they should hand over documents to an action group. Page 48

Knighthood for writer is at risk

By Christopher Thomas in Colombo, Richard Ford and Michael Binyon

THE Prince of Wales will cancel plans to invest Sir Arthur C. Clarke with a knighthood unless the writer formally denies allegations that he had sex with young boys while living in Sri Lanka.

The categorical denial is being sought by British diplomats in an attempt to prevent embarrassment to the Prince, who is scheduled to meet the science fiction author in Sri Lanka on Wednesday.

The Prince, who begins an official visit today to mark the island's fiftieth anniversary of independence from Britain, has already had to alter his programme because of concern for his safety. About 300 rebel Tamil Tigers were reported to have been killed yesterday in a battle with government troops in the north of the country.

Yesterday Sir Arthur, author of 2001: A Space Odyssey, denied the allegations through a friend in England and said that he was opposed to "mucking about with small boys". He said there was "no truth" in the "very hurtful" allegations published in the *Sunday Mirror* that he paid for sex with boys, most of whom had reached the age of puberty. Sir Arthur, confined to a wheelchair for the past 15 years, said he had not been sexually active for 20 years.

Until two years ago child sex was a crime in Sri Lanka only when it applied to children under the age of 12. In 1985, after the island gained a worldwide reputation for attracting paedophiles, the age was raised to 16 with penalties of up to 20 years in jail.

Sir Arthur, who has lived in Sri Lanka for forty years, has made no contact with the British High Commission over the allegations. He is due to be at the Commission in the capital Colombo on Wednesday to be



Sir Arthur C. Clarke in his wheelchair

Continued on page 2, col 3

Lewinsky could join Clinton defence, says her lawyer



Lewinsky: small gifts

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

MONICA LEWINSKY could join forces with President Clinton's legal team to fight Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, her lawyer declared yesterday.

William Ginsburg revealed that he had failed to agree with prosecutors any terms on which his client, the 24-year-old former White House

trainee, would testify in the sex and perjury storm surrounding the President.

Mr Ginsburg is now energetically playing down reports of the details of the alleged affair between Ms Lewinsky and Mr Clinton, saying that the President had not given her a dress "unless you count a long T-shirt a dress". He added that Mr Clinton had given his client "small, inconsequential gifts ... nothing

that couldn't be bought in the White House gift shop".

The collapse of negotiations with Ms Lewinsky is likely to prove a heavy blow for Mr Starr's attempt to assemble evidence that the President lied about a sexual affair. And as the political heat began to drain out of the two-week-old saga, Mr Ginsburg said: "I think the President will survive and the country will be fine." But he added that Ms

Lewinsky "would have a tough time" for a while and might "have difficulty finding employment".

Reports in *The Washington Post* yesterday, which alleged that Monica Lewinsky had offered Linda Tripp — her former colleague who made secret tape recordings of their conversations — a share in an Australian apartment if she kept silent about the relationship between Ms Lewinsky

and Mr Clinton were not of much value, said Mr Ginsburg.

Mr Starr's diligence yesterday received endorsement of dubious value from his 90-year-old mother Vannie. As a teenager he "polished his shoes every night, and his daddy's shoes too, sitting on the floor in front of the TV", she told *Time* magazine.

'Persecutor' Starr, page 13

"It's Saddam — he'll reveal his secrets if Clinton will reveal his!"

Policeman caught speeding at Express Tolls

To ease congestion, Abbey National now open Express Tills, for cash and cheque transactions, at the busiest times of day. A little good news for the front page.

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Cook and Brown bury their differences

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

GORDON BROWN, one of Robin Cook's oldest Cabinet rivals, has had a lengthy meeting with him at which he offered strong support and they agreed to put aside their past differences.

The hour-long chat over malt whisky in the Foreign Secretary's room at the Commons on Thursday night was being presented dramatically in some quarters as the end of a 20-year feud. The Chancellor was reported as telling Mr Cook: "I'm here if you need me. We may have had our differences in the past but

it is the sort of thing that brings a government together."

Informed sources suggested yesterday both that the admittedly difficult relations between the two since their student politics days had not in recent years resembled a "feud", and that it would be wrong to suppose that they would suddenly see eye to eye on everything in the future. The less charitable were also suggesting that Mr Brown's act was a sign of how serious things had become for Mr Cook.

However, a warming in their relations would be welcome to the Prime Minister. From their early days in politics they were rivals and

have often seen each other as threats. In recent years Mr Cook was known to covet the job of Shadow Chancellor (and then Chancellor) eventually secured by Mr Brown.

Mr Brown was followed by a succession of Cabinet ministers yesterday in voicing backing for Mr Cook in a manner that suggested Mr Blair's warning to them last week to stick together in adversity had struck a chord. John Prescott, on *Breakfast With Frost* on BBC1, said Mr Cook was getting on with his job despite the distraction of the publicity generated by his marriage break-up. He had done what he could to support the Foreign Secretary. "I have talked

to Robin, many ministers have as well," the Deputy Prime Minister said.

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, praised Mr Cook and dismissed the stories surrounding the Foreign Secretary's relationship with Gaynor Regan as "title-tattle". Speaking on LWT's *Jonathan Dimbleby* programme, Mr Smith said: "Robin Cook is doing I think a very good job as Foreign Secretary. I hope that he will carry on doing the job of Foreign Secretary for a long time to come."

Mr Smith said it was important to ensure that all Government ministers were acting with probity but added: "Let's get serious about the

important things, in health and education, in youth crime, in getting young people into jobs."

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, being interviewed on BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend* about the Iraqi crisis, insisted that Mr Cook was not "unfocused" on his job because of the furore over his marital split. Mr Robertson insisted: "Robin Cook held a press conference yesterday with Madeleine Albright at the Foreign Office answering all of the questions on these key issues, and we are here talking about matters of enormous gravity, of life and death."

Leading article, page 21

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bloody Sunday march passes off peacefully

The 40,000-strong parade to mark the 26th Bloody Sunday anniversary passed off peacefully in Londonderry yesterday as marchers welcomed Tony Blair's decision to order a new inquiry into the 14 killings.

The 90-minute march through the city followed the usual route from the nationalist Creggan estate to Free Derry Corner in the Bogside, the site of the killings of civil rights protesters. John Kelly, whose brother Michael was among the victims, told the marchers: "I think we are in a more jovial mood after last week's announcement."

Michael McLaughlin, the Sinn Fein chairman, addressed the crowd at Free Derry Corner and praised Mr Blair for his "brave and courageous" decision. Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, and Martin McGuinness, its chief negotiator, walked with the protesters.

Picture, page 1

IRA men must die in jail

IRA terrorists Martin O'Connell, 46, Eddie Butler, 48, Harry Duggan, 45, and Hugh Doherty, 47, must spend the rest of their lives in jail, the Home Secretary Jack Straw has decided. They were convicted in 1977 of killing Ross McWhirter and Gordon Hamilton Fairley outside their London homes, and of a gun attack on Scots restaurant in Mayfair. They were caught after a six-day police siege.

Hospital trusts inquiry

An investigation into the way nominations are sought to hospital trust boards is to be carried out by Sir Leonard Peach, the Commissioner for Public Appointments, John Maples, Shadow Health Secretary, said. Mr Maples complained to Sir Leonard about "a disproportionate number of Labour councillors" being nominated to NHS trusts. He was promised an inquiry. Labour denies bias.

French fail drivers

Ministers are to tackle the French Government over its failure to fulfil promises given to Tony Blair about compensation for more than 1,000 British lorry drivers stranded by strike action in France. With the deadline only days away, only a handful of claims have been settled and ministers fear that French authorities are trying to stall the process.

Labour loses members

John Prescott admitted that Labour's difficulties over welfare reform had cost the party members. The Deputy Prime Minister said on *Breakfast With Frost* on BBC1 that Labour had perhaps not paid enough attention to its links with its members. This had been "corrected" with the decision of Tony Blair and the Cabinet to go into the country to sell the case for welfare reform.

Bobby Moore appeal

Sports Minister Tony Banks says football hero Bobby Moore's medals and trophies should be treated in the same way as Sir Winston Churchill's papers and saved for the nation with the aid of National Lottery cash. Tina Moore, the first wife of England's World Cup-winning captain, wants to raise £2 million by selling his trophies, including his World Cup winner's medal and 108 England caps.

Right backs federalism

Britain should embrace a federal system of government with a national Parliament and provincial parliaments in the four home countries, according to a report today from the leading Conservative think-tank, the Centre for Policy Studies. It is the first sign that the Tories could accept radical constitutional change in the face of the Government's introduction of devolution.

Smoking linked to sex

Teenage girls who smoke are more likely to become pregnant than non-smokers, researchers have shown. The likely reason, according to a report in *The British Journal of General Practice* on a study at the University of Exeter, is that smoking and early sexual intercourse are both behaviours that attract the sort of person who is a natural risk-taker.

Action against age bar

The Government is to introduce a code of practice to counter discrimination at work on grounds of age. Discriminatory job advertisements are to be banned, and there will be action against employers who fail to promote people or grant them pay rises because of their age. The code is to be drawn up in consultation with the CBI, the TUC, Age Concern and others.

Two bikers die in fight

Two men were stabbed to death in what is believed to have been a fight between rival biker gangs after a London rock concert. The victims, both in their thirties, were involved in a brawl outside the Battersea Arts Centre, southwest London, after 1,700 bikers attended a concert on Saturday evening. A third man was taken to hospital with recovered knives, axes and hammers from the scene.

Ministers unveil plans to toughen drink-drive laws

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS today publish plans to make Britain's drink-drive laws among the toughest in the world, including reducing the alcohol limit to the equivalent of one pint of beer.

Although Britain already has one of Europe's best road-safety records, ministers now believe that further improvements will follow a lower limit along with harsher penalties. However, safety campaigners said that changes that would have a bigger impact on the number of road traffic deaths, such as tackling speeding and other forms of dangerous driving, were being overlooked.

While alcohol-related deaths reduced dramatically during a police purge in the 1980s, they have remained static, at about 540 a year, for the last four years. The numbers killed through speeding have remained high, and represent 1,200 of the 3,598 road deaths in 1996. John Prescott,

the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday voiced support for calls to reduce the current drink-drive limit and introduce tougher punishments for repeat and serious offenders.

No detailed research has been carried out into the effect on the casualty rate of lowering the drink-drive limit from the present 80 milligrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood to 50mg. However, the Association of Chief Police Officers, which advocates a lower limit, estimates that the change would save between ten and 80 lives a year.

Mary Williams, executive director of Brake, the road-safety research and campaign group, said: "We need to turn attention now to other areas where many more people are killed." RoadPeace, another campaigning group, reports that 85 per cent of road deaths and 94 per cent of serious injuries are not related to

drink-driving. Patricia Finucane of RoadPeace said: "Death and injury not caused by drink-driving are perceived as unfortunate, tragic consequences of minor offences."

The current limit is thought to be roughly the equivalent of drinking four units of alcohol, the equivalent of two pints of beer or four glasses of wine, whereas the new limit would roughly equal two units.

Mr Prescott said yesterday that he would consider a two-tier system of punishment with a lower limit of 50mg alongside the present 80mg level. Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, suggested last month that ministers would favour imposing the automatic 12-month driving ban at the 50mg mark, and raise the existing one-year ban at 80mg to 18 months.

Leading article and Letters, page 21



Doctors Michael Apple, left, and Rami Elia, at the Sainsbury's in Garston yesterday

Supermarket offers range of surgeries

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

SUPERMARKETS are adding doctors surgeries to their product range in a move that will help GPs meet new Government priorities for improving primary care.

The first surgery in a superstore car park opens this week in Garston, near Watford, and four more are due to open within a year. GPs have been given the lead role in implementing the Government's programme of reforms in medical care, but without extra Government money few will be able to afford to build modern, fully equipped surgeries. Partnerships with supermarket chains could help solve the chronic underfunding of the National Health Service.

For Michael Apple, senior partner in the Watford practice, the deal with Sainsbury's means that he can move out of a surgery where doctors and health visitors had to queue for the use of consulting rooms into a purpose built centre

with its own operating theatre. "We were in a four-bedroom house that had served as home and surgery for one doctor 60 years ago. Now the practice has three partners, 12 staff plus a midwife, district nurse and health visitor. We all had to share just six rooms. There was no space for records. The secretary had to type in the converted bathroom. The waiting room was sometimes so crowded that people had to queue outside on the step."

Having failed with a couple of applications to build on greenfield sites, he was getting desperate when a Sainsbury's representative called and asked if he would be interested in having a new surgery built on the large car park of their store 200 yards away.

With the local rating officer, Sainsbury's has agreed a fair rent for the new surgery which will be reimbursed by the health authority. The running costs for the practice will be higher than in the old surgery,

but the new building is already attracting new patients to the practice. "We are in a win-win situation," Dr Apple said. "We are getting spacious new premises with good car parking round it and room for expansion. Sainsbury's are getting rent for what was an unused corner of their car park, they will probably get more customers through the shop and I expect they will be able to get permission for a dispensing chemist in the store, which has been turned down in the past because of opposition by local chemists."

A Sainsbury's spokesman said the move was "not pure altruism". He added: "We are looking to provide benefits for the customers which will bring them into the shops. It is a win-win situation for us too."

The four other surgeries being built this year by Sainsbury's are at Wintonmore Hill, North London, Leicester, Leeds, and Bracknell in Berkshire.

Vote on local tax Writer

Continued from page 1

ing was necessary either on the key public services or on a particular local project. If voters disapproved of plans to go above government guidelines the council would have to tear them up.

Hilary Armstrong, the housing and local government minister, backs the idea as a way of reviving voters' interests in local affairs and improving the democratic accountability of councillors.

Ministers accept that referendums would have to be used sparingly because of the cost and the risk of turning off voters who do not like going to the polls too often.

Changes to the capping

regime could precede the wider legislation, government sources revealed yesterday. However, any loosening in Whitehall control can only happen if councils - particularly those that are Labour-run - show responsibility in the way they run their affairs, ministers say.

Mr Prescott's review is almost certain to shelve plans for a new top rate of council tax for expensive houses and a new bottom rate for low-value homes. Ministers have been keen to put in a new band for homes worth more than £450,000.

At present all homes worth more than £320,000 fall into the top band H.

Continued from page 1

invested with his knighthood which was awarded last year on the Government's recommendation. Unless the Commission receives the categorical denial, it will tell the Government that it should advise the Prince to cancel the investiture. It would then be up to the Prime Minister to decide whether the author should be stripped of his honour, as happened to Anthony Blunt, the art historian and Soviet spy.

Allegations were made in an interview published in the *Sunday Mirror* that he had had sex with boys as young as 13 and had regularly picked up teenagers.

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Duchess's column 'too boring' for American readers

As newspapers drop syndication, manager says she's still big in the Gulf. **Dominic Kennedy reports**

WEEK 1: Sarah tells the motley crew of American her editors that she will not talk to anyone about her life, but she will talk to her husband (who is still very much in the picture, as she is in the Queen). She says she is not interested in being a "celebrity" and she is not interested in being a "celebrity". "I think that's a good thing," she says. "I think that's a good thing."

WEEK 2: With Madonna a mere three weeks away, Sarah says she could hardly have found the London publisher of her autobiography. She says she is not interested in being a "celebrity" and she is not interested in being a "celebrity". "I think that's a good thing," she says. "I think that's a good thing."

WEEK 3: Recently, Sarah visited the south-west coast of Ireland. She says she is not interested in being a "celebrity" and she is not interested in being a "celebrity". "I think that's a good thing," she says. "I think that's a good thing."

WEEK 4: Sarah explains that she is not interested in being a "celebrity" and she is not interested in being a "celebrity". "I think that's a good thing," she says. "I think that's a good thing."

WEEK 5: The other day, Sarah visited the south-west coast of Ireland. She says she is not interested in being a "celebrity" and she is not interested in being a "celebrity". "I think that's a good thing," she says. "I think that's a good thing."

WEEK 6: Home in London, Sarah says she is not interested in being a "celebrity" and she is not interested in being a "celebrity". "I think that's a good thing," she says. "I think that's a good thing."

WEEK 7: "I was there when I was a child," she says. "I was there when I was a child."

WEEK 8: Sarah says she is not interested in being a "celebrity" and she is not interested in being a "celebrity". "I think that's a good thing," she says. "I think that's a good thing."

WEEK 9: Sarah says she is not interested in being a "celebrity" and she is not interested in being a "celebrity". "I think that's a good thing," she says. "I think that's a good thing."

WEEK 10: Sarah says she is not interested in being a "celebrity" and she is not interested in being a "celebrity". "I think that's a good thing," she says. "I think that's a good thing."

WEEK 11: Sarah says she is not interested in being a "celebrity" and she is not interested in being a "celebrity". "I think that's a good thing," she says. "I think that's a good thing."

WEEK 12: Sarah says she is not interested in being a "celebrity" and she is not interested in being a "celebrity". "I think that's a good thing," she says. "I think that's a good thing."

WEEK 13: Sarah says she is not interested in being a "celebrity" and she is not interested in being a "celebrity". "I think that's a good thing," she says. "I think that's a good thing."

WEEK 14: Sarah says she is not interested in being a "celebrity" and she is not interested in being a "celebrity". "I think that's a good thing," she says. "I think that's a good thing."

WEEK 15: Sarah says she is not interested in being a "celebrity" and she is not interested in being a "celebrity". "I think that's a good thing," she says. "I think that's a good thing."

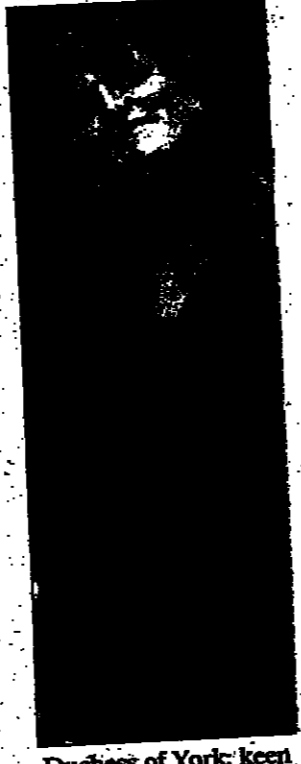
WEEK 16: Sarah says she is not interested in being a "celebrity" and she is not interested in being a "celebrity". "I think that's a good thing," she says. "I think that's a good thing."

WEEK 17: Sarah says she is not interested in being a "celebrity" and she is not interested in being a "celebrity". "I think that's a good thing," she says. "I think that's a good thing."

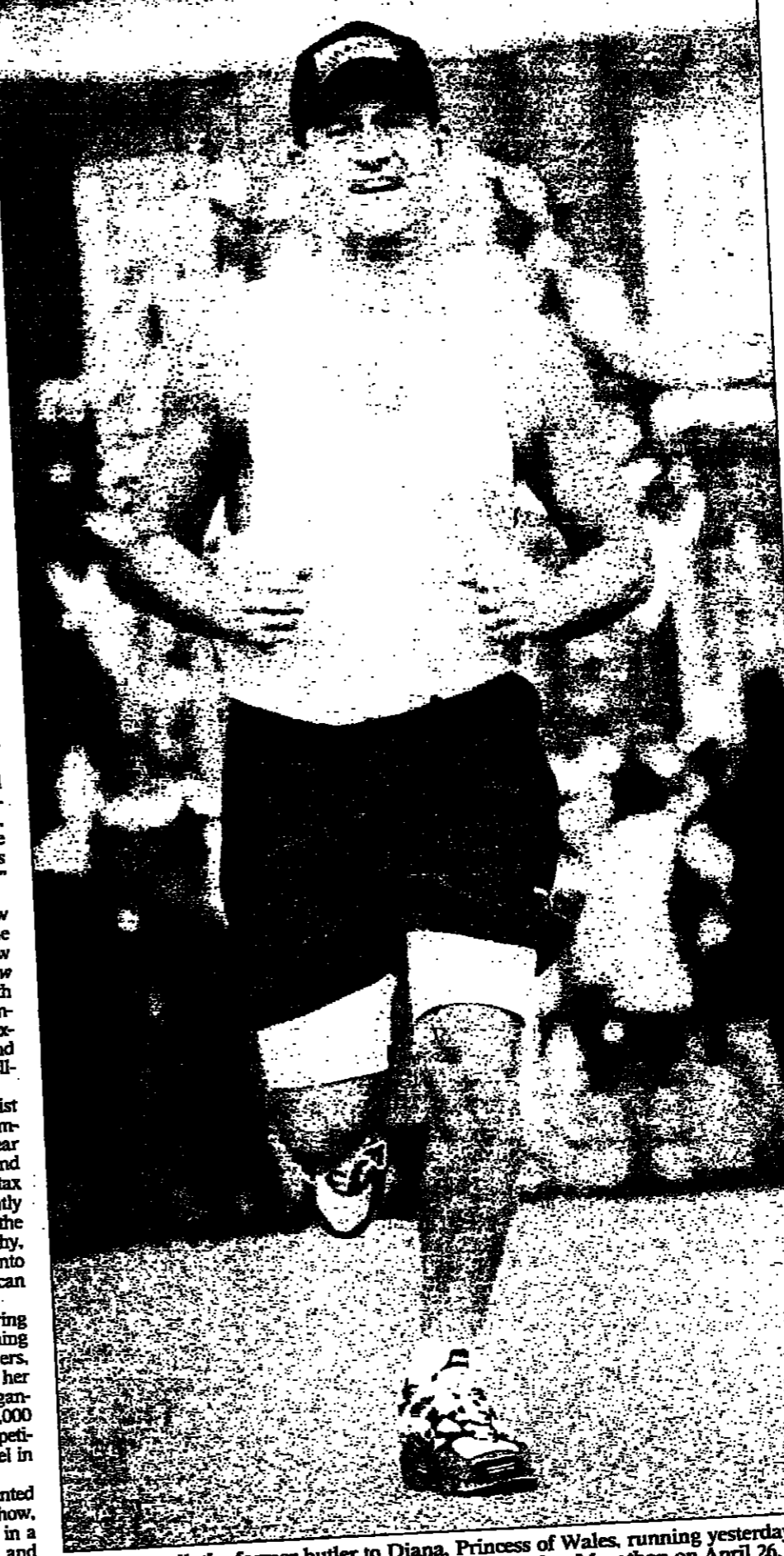
WEEK 18: Sarah says she is not interested in being a "celebrity" and she is not interested in being a "celebrity". "I think that's a good thing," she says. "I think that's a good thing."

WEEK 19: Sarah says she is not interested in being a "celebrity" and she is not interested in being a "celebrity". "I think that's a good thing," she says. "I think that's a good thing."

WEEK 20: Sarah says she is not interested in being a "celebrity" and she is not interested in being a "celebrity". "I think that's a good thing," she says. "I think that's a good thing."



Duchess of York: keen to pay off her debts



Paul Burrell, the former butler to Diana, Princess of Wales, running yesterday in Park Royal, London. He is a member of the Times squad of 25 readers raising money for the Princess's Memorial Fund.

Collector fears for his 50,000 articles on Diana

By Simon de Bruielles

THE world's largest private collection of newspaper articles about Diana, Princess of Wales, is mouldering in an out-of-date home while its owner tries to find a new home for them. The archive of 50,000 yellowing cuttings, neatly filed in bakers' bread trays, is in danger of being lost to damp and decay. Paul White, a retired newspaper editor, has collected every word published about Diana since February 24, 1981, when *The Times* reported on its front page "Engagement of Prince to be announced today".

His infatuation with Diana, which he admits became an obsession, took over ever more of his life, to the dismay of his wife Marian. Mr White, 62, from Frome, Somerset, said: "I was completely besotted, but Marian is very cynical and always thought Diana was playing up to the cameras. She doesn't like to discuss my interest which is partly why the collection has been banished to a stable."

"Until her death I kept the whole newspaper, not just the article and photograph about Diana. But they took up so much room I decided to winnow them down. I have filed them in chronological order, 100 pictures to a folder, ten folders to every tray, in 50 trays."

He has also offered them to Earl Spencer for the museum to the Princess at Althorp.

420,000 in Toronto and Edmonton. Mike Burke-Gaffney, an executive at the *Toronto Sun*, said the idea of the Duchess of York writing for them had had novelty value at first. "When we dropped the column, we had so few complaints from readers you could have counted them on the fingers of one hand. I can't say in all honesty that she covered a wide range of topics. It was fairly mild stuff. Its appeal was limited."

The Chicago *Sun-Times* also quickly dropped the column. The *New York Times* itself, which has 202 pages, never found the space to run the Duchess's pieces. A question mark must now hang over the syndication contract when it comes up for renewal in two months.

When *New York Times* Syndication signed the deal

Queen Mother gets some good news

QUEEN ELIZABETH the Queen Mother has been told that the pregnant mare she was visiting at Sandringham when she fell and broke her hip has given birth to a bay foal. The mare, Brand, is owned by the Queen Mother.

The Queen Mother was given the news at the King Edward VII Hospital's for Officers in Central London, where she has been treated since the fall last Sunday. A spokesman for Buckingham Palace said she was continuing to make progress after a hip replacement operation.

The Queen Mother is expected to choose the foal's name. It is likely that it will include the word Brandy. Brand has had three other foals, Brandy Snap, Double Brandy and Cherry Brandy. Brand, who was bred by the Queen, has never raced, but comes from one of the best families in the Royal Stud.

Bob Rowlands, the stud groom, said: "We hope she is going to go on and be something quite special. We look forward to her racing as a two or three-year-old and winning something special for the Queen Mother."



Bob Rowlands at the stud with the Queen Mother's mare Brand and newborn foal

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Lawyers name High Court's best and worst

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

RUDE, lazy and indecisive — that is the verdict on some senior judges this week in a survey of the best and worst of the judiciary on the High Court bench.

The survey finds that a few High Court judges persist with their bad habits and remain untouched by the need to produce speedy judgments or listen to counsel. Many others, however — usually in the commercial court — win plaudits for being on the ball and quick to reach a decision.

The survey of the views of 100 barristers and solicitors by the monthly magazine *Legal Business* singles out, among judges who have got on the wrong side of the lawyers, Mr Justice Harman and Mr Justice Cresswell — with Mr Justice Rafter and Mr Justice Ferris close behind.

Mr Justice Harman is "dreadfully rude to people who are junior and inexperienced"; Mr Justice

INTERNET LAW

Lawyers protecting the anonymity of juveniles and rape victims in criminal courts are to be overhauled because their effectiveness is threatened by the growing use of the Internet. Home Office officials are to have talks with some Internet service providers to see if restrictions can be imposed after the Home Secretary's son was named on the Internet.

enced; discourteous and bullying", according to one (anonymous) lawyer. "a complete law to himself" and "very unpredictable and nasty", according to others.

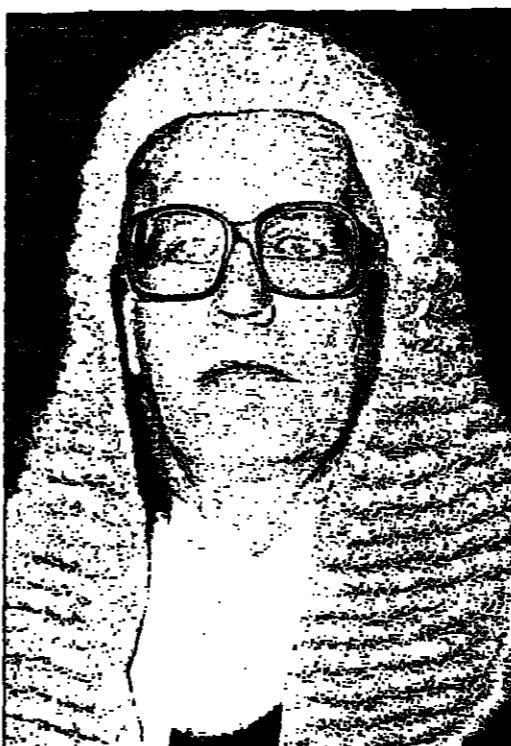
The lawyers acknowledge, though, that he is "pretty good intellectually". Mr Justice

Cresswell comes under fire for seeking compromise and for "his incredible optimism that anything can be resolved by correspondence between the parties".

Mr Justice Rafter is slated for not listening enough, and Mr Justice Ferris for not being tough enough and "letting people ramble on".

The lawyers, chiefly acting in commercial disputes, are equally caustic about dilatoriness. Mr Justice Rix, although regarded by several as among the best on the bench, "seems incapable of delivering judgments on time," according to one City litigator.

But if lawyers are quick to criticise, they are happy also to name the stars. Toppling the poll were Mr Justice Laddie, Mr Justice Lightman and Mr Justice Mance. All, apparently, showed open-mindedness, decisiveness and intellectual agility.



Singled out for criticism in a survey of 100 barristers and solicitors: Mr Justice Cresswell, Mr Justice Harman and Mr Justice Rafter

Nick Gardner, litigation partner at Herbert Smith, spoke of Mr Justice Laddie as "being bright and intelligent, reading the papers in advance, picking up what is said in front of him very quickly — and listening to counsel".

Mr Justice Mance is rated as "meticulous, makes up his mind in a judicial way, doesn't jump to conclusions too early on", and as "clever, bold ...

sometimes controversial." Martha Klein, editor of *Legal Business*, said: "What is interesting is that the judges ranked worst in our last survey in 1994 are still the worst. They have made no effort to change."

It was of concern, she said, that no one monitored the performance of High Court judges. "There are no checks and balances — no informa-

tion as to the rate of appeals against their judgment. There should be some regular monitoring — as happens in every other walk of life."

Judges themselves have asked for more information on the outcome of appeals against their judgment. But *Legal Business* is concerned that there is no requirement for High Court judgments to have training, as do more junior

judges; and also says that their pay levels — £112,011 — are inadequate and deter the best from seeking appointment.

The magazine says: "Those who do display promise are quickly promoted to the Court of Appeal, leaving a dearth of quality at the High Court. "Rather than merit their ways or retire gracefully, those passed over ... are left to indulge their idiosyncrasies."

□ The system of appointing silks or Queen's Counsel should be scrapped, according to a report published by the Adam Smith Institute today. The report, by a solicitor, Peter Reeves, says: "The title enables silks to charge far more than colleagues who may be just as good, and can send costs out of sight."

Law Report, page 41

Britain lends an ear to the search for ET

By Robin Young

IF ET is phoning Earth, British radio astronomers could shortly be listening in to his calls.

Scientists at Jodrell Bank in Cheshire are to play a key role in the most intensive search yet for evidence of extra-terrestrial intelligence. And if there are radio hams striving to make contact from distant galaxies we might be on their wavelength within a decade.

The plan is to link two of the world's largest radio telescopes so that they can jointly scour the skies in search of signals from alien civilisations.

The 250 ft Lovell Telescope operated by the University of Manchester will be linked to the vast 1,000 ft instrument at Arecibo in Puerto Rico.

Working together over a ten-year period, they will listen for artificial radio messages from 2,000 Sun-like stars within a range of 150 light years from the Earth. State-of-the-art computer technology will allow the scientists to scan and sift 50 million frequency channels at the same time.

The move marks a turning-

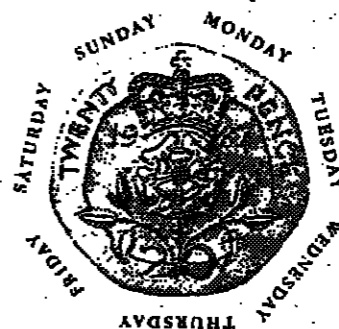
point in Seti, the Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence. An American scientist at the forefront of the project said he would be surprised if ET failed to make contact.

At present the California-based Seti Institute operates from a relatively small 140 ft radio telescope at Greenbank, West Virginia. But this summer the whole scale of Project Phoenix, the Seti programme launched by the Institute in the 1970s, will be transformed when it switches to Puerto Rico.

Arecibo, the largest single-dish radio telescope in the world, is built in the natural hollow of a mountain and uses the rotation of the Earth to scan the sky.

Dr Richard Davis, senior lecturer in physics and astronomy at Manchester University, who was chiefly responsible for bringing Seti to Jodrell Bank, said: "People often wonder why Seti hasn't been successful, but a serious search has not been made to date. This is the first time we've had a system that's really up to the job. If there are any transmissions out there, we'll find them."

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THE TIMES MONDAY FEBRUARY 2 1998

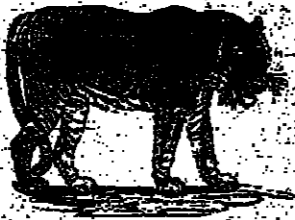
A happy new year of disaster and war

HOLD ON for a bumpy ride. We have entered the Year of the Tiger in the Chinese lunar calendar and, according to oriental astrologers, we must expect the worst.

London's Chinatown welcomed the new year yesterday with a traditional dragon dance, offerings of money in red envelopes, large family meals, and a performance by the young violinist Vanessa-Mae, promoting her new album, *China Girl*.

The omens look particularly gloomy for President Clinton. Most Chinese handbooks delight in pointing out that the Watergate scandal culminated in President Nixon resigning in disgrace in the last Year of the Tiger.

Tiger years, the Chinese astrologers insist, are "explosive, ripe for disagreements, disaster and war". They "see fortunes won and fortunes lost", says the Chinese manual of astrological advice. "Anyone preparing to make a gamble should realise that the odds are stacked against them." The



Keep your head down in the Year of the Tiger, says

Robin Young

best prospect is that the purging effect of a fiery Year of the Tiger might have a cathartic result. "Just as high temperatures are necessary to bring forth gold, so the Year of the Tiger, with its unpredictable furies, may serve to bring out the best in us," the book says piously.

Those born in the Year of the Tiger are reputed to have powerful personalities, characterised by vigour, vivacity and verve. They are

also said to have short tempers, reckless enthusiasms, impetuous energies and wholehearted commitment to projects.

The list of famous tigers of past and present includes President de Gaulle, Ho Chi Minh, Simon Bolivar, the Princess Royal, Stevie Wonder, Sir Alec Guinness, Dame Diana Rigg, Emily Brontë, Rudolf Nureyev, Isadora Duncan and Marilyn Monroe.

Those born under the sign of the tiger also include anyone born between February 15 1926 and February 1 1927; January 31 1938 and February 18 1939; February 17 1950 and February 5 1951; February 5 1962 and January 24 1963; January 23 1974 and February 10 1975; and February 9 1986 and January 28 1987.

The general advice, if your loved ones have birthdays within those limits, is to batten the hatches, lock the china cupboard and, as the Chinese pundits inscrutably suggest, "retain at all times a good sense of humour".



Vanessa-Mae playing as part of the celebrations yesterday in Chinatown. However, astrologers say there might not be much to celebrate

Cellist in plea for classical revival

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE cellist Julian Lloyd Webber yesterday launched a scathing attack on the fashion for "aimless avant-garde music", which he blamed for condemning classical works to unpopularity and decline.

"Forty years of madness," he claimed in a speech to the World Economic Forum at Davos in Switzerland, had robbed Western classical music of its audiences and lifeblood while pop took over.

Mr Lloyd Webber issued a challenge to British breakfast television to give young classical musicians air-time to prove their worth. "Give me four weeks of daily three-minute slots and I will deliver you 20 young musicians who will captivate your viewers."

"Classical music audiences and CD sales were declining, fewer children learnt instruments, and the media was uninterested, unless semi-naked bimbo violinists or something like the David Helfgott circus are involved."

A spokesman for GMTV said last night that his idea was interesting and would be considered. "We did have Vanessa-Mae on last week. Mr Lloyd Webber may think

she is a bimbo, but Lorraine Kelly was very impressed."

Mr Lloyd Webber's attack coincides with the launch of a campaign by the conductor Sir Simon Rattle against the Government's proposal to drop music from the primary school curriculum. In *The Times* today, Sir Simon blames the Government for an attitude which, he says, "could be the death of music".

Sir Simon says that to entertain delegates to the G8 Summit in Birmingham in May, he requested programme was Jools Holland, Eric Clapton, Sting, the percussionist Evelyn Glennie and violinist Nigel Kennedy. "but we'd like Nigel to play with Eric Clapton". The message, he says, was: "Please do not play any classical music."

Mr Lloyd Webber told his audience that nearly all classical soloists in 20 years would be from the Far East, because of the dearth of Western students. "For 40 years of madness... classical music turned its back on audiences," he said. "Composers who pursued a logical development of the music of the great masters were increasingly disparaged and derided by the new rulers of the classical music establishment, for whom tonality and harmony had become dirty words."

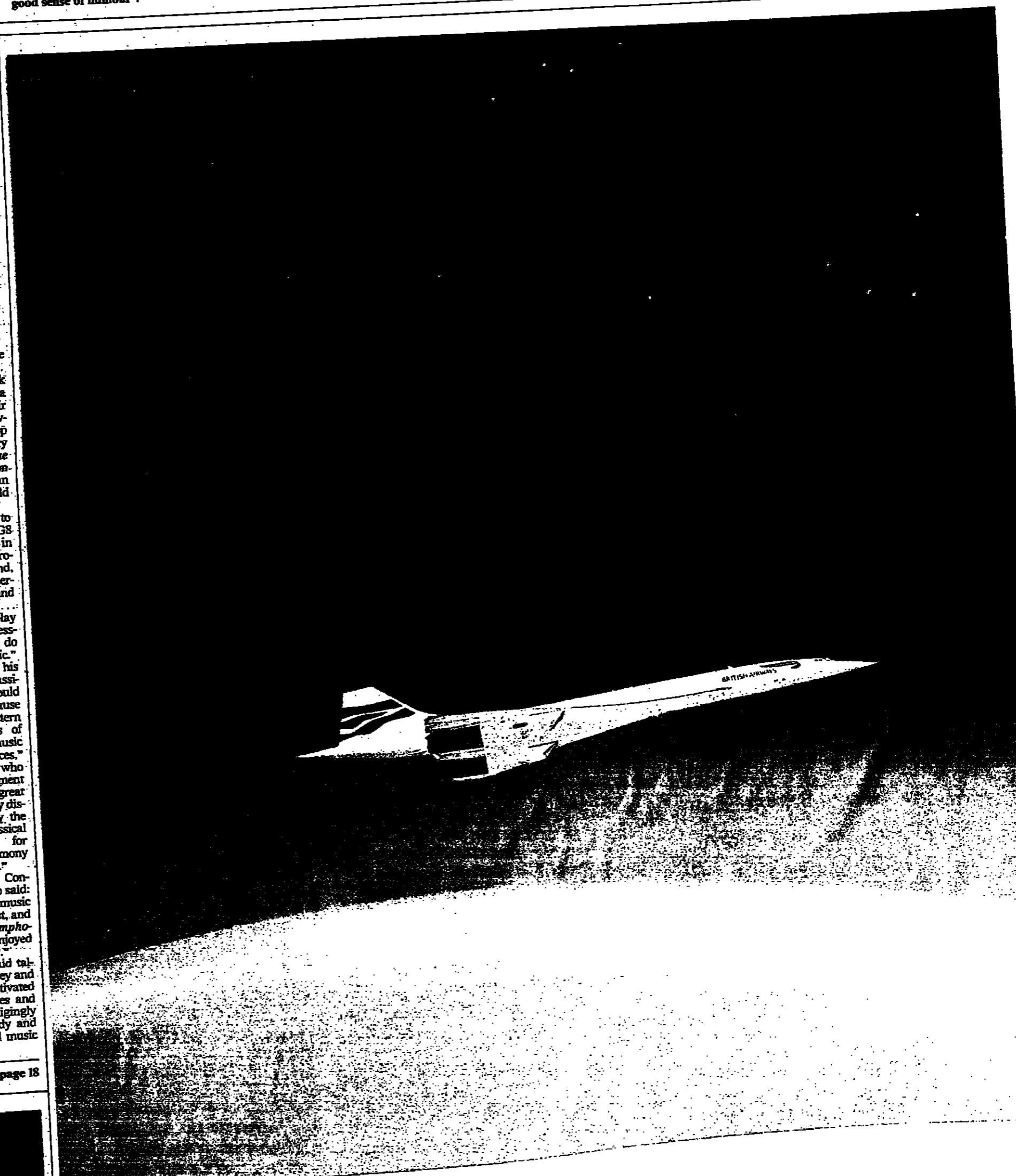
A spokesman for the Contemporary Music Group said: "A lot of contemporary music has created great interest, and some, like Gorecki's *Symphony of Sad Songs*, has enjoyed unparalleled popularity."

Mr Lloyd Webber said talents such as Elvis Presley and Buddy Holly had captivated the public. "The Beatles and the Beach Boys obligingly provided all the melody and harmony that classical music appeared to despise."



Lloyd Webber attacked avant-garde music

Sir Simon Rattle, page 18



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TIM BRIGHOUSE

Age: 53
 Appearance: windswept academic
 Career: Modern History MA from Oxford, teacher, deputy education officer at Monmouthshire, then Buckinghamshire. Deputy education officer, Inner London Education Authority (1976-79), chief education officer, Oxford (1979-93), Professor of Education, Keele University (1989-93), chief education officer, Birmingham.

Teenage hero: Cyril Washbrook, Lancashire opening batsman (right)
 Family: married, two children from first marriage
 Big ideas: testing of five-year-olds, target-setting for schools, University of the First Age for nine to 14-year-olds.
 Dislikes: Ofsted and John Patten, the former Education Secretary, who called him a "nutter", for which Professor Brighouse successfully sued
 Hobbies: gardening, cricket
 Brighouse on Woodhead: "A reign of terror" (comments on Ofsted, January 1997)

A clash between education advisers with different ideas on teaching threatens to overshadow a report on standards, writes John O'Leary

TWO of the Government's most senior education advisers are at odds over their opposed teaching methods in a dispute which threatens to overshadow tomorrow's progress report on standards in England's schools.

As Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, delivers his first annual report under Labour, officials in Birmingham will be waiting for the final verdict on their education authority. The city's report, expected on Thursday, will be the most politically sensitive of Ofsted's frequently controversial findings.

Although the judgment on Birmingham will be largely complimentary, Professor Tim Brighouse, its chief education officer, has challenged a number of findings in the draft report. He has taken particular exception to a passage, said to have been inserted by Mr Woodhead, which suggests that Birmingham's methods should not be considered a model for other authorities.

The two men are seen as the embodiment of opposite poles of government education policy, which aims to raise standards through a combination of pressure and support. Mr Woodhead's trenchant criticism of poor teaching has made him the main exponent of pressure, while Professor Brighouse has been the architect of the Ofsted approach and a believer in the power of positive motivation.

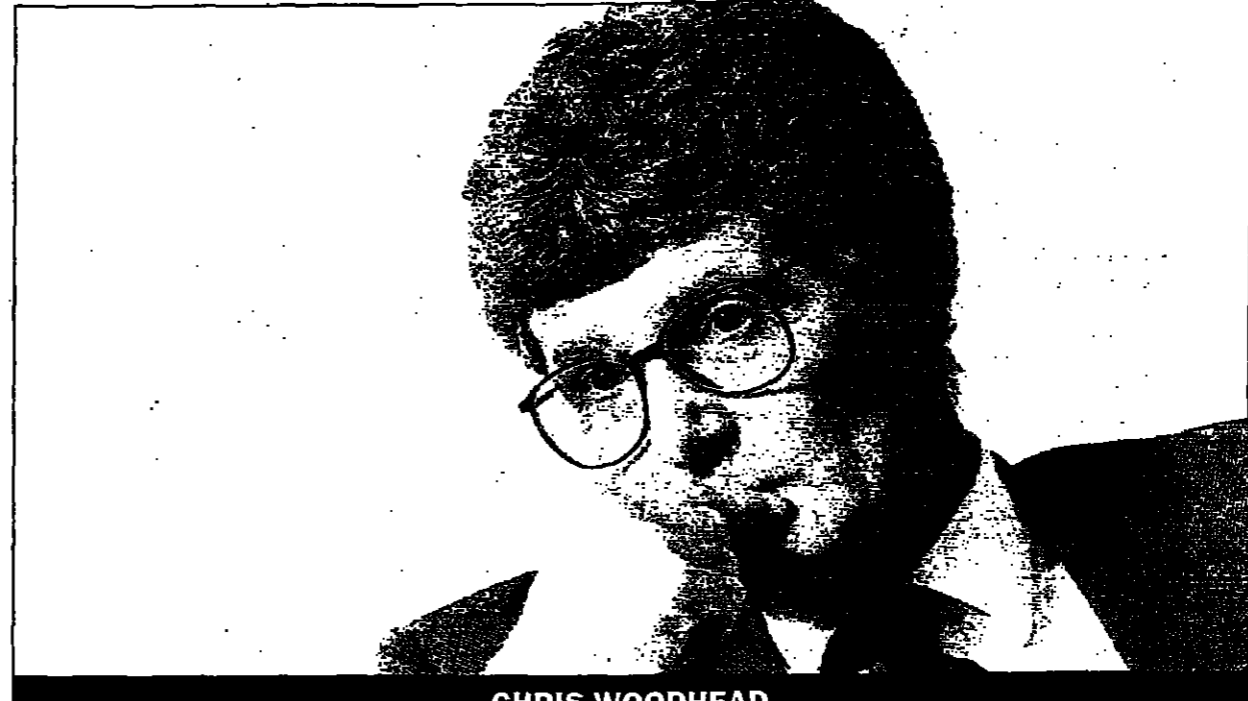
tion and Employment Secretary, sprang a surprise last year by naming them as his deputies on the new Standards Task Force. But the choice of Birmingham as one of the 12 education authorities in the first round of local inspections has tested their relationship to the limit.

Birmingham schools rely heavily on the advice and support of the local education authority, and Professor Brighouse has been given much of the credit for a steady rise in the city's results since his arrival in 1993. Any criticism of the authority's performance is bound to be interpreted as a personal attack.

The draft report finds that Birmingham has become a well-run and effective authority over the past five years, with GCSE results rising faster than the national average. Professor Brighouse's inspirational qualities are seen as an important factor, with the city's initiatives attracting considerable publicity and "not a little rhetoric".

However, the inspectors add: "The danger of rhetoric is that it may not only be the audience which comes to believe it. There is a risk inherent in the disjunction between rhetoric and the reality that the LEA loses sight of the real reason, why it is as effective as it is, and why it is not more so."

The report concludes: "The local authority works, but the central thesis of this report is



CHRIS WOODHEAD

Age: 51
 Appearance: lean, well-groomed politician
 Career: studied English and teaching at Bristol and Keele universities, English teacher, Oxford University teaching tutor 1976-82, subject advisor for Shropshire, deputy chief executive officer in Devon, then Cornwall, deputy chief executive, then chief executive, of National Curriculum Council, where he was one of the "Three Wise Men" who wrote seminal report on primary education in 1992. Chief Inspector of Schools since 1994
 Dislikes: trendy teachers, child-centred teaching, the education research industry

Tenage hero: Dusty Springfield (right)
 Family: partner is primary school head
 Big ideas: "The greatest gainers in a system of reporting which clearly states what teachers do and what they fail to do are the teachers. Not one which drowns alike success and failure, the able and inefficient, in a common flood of vague approbation." (A Matthew Arnold quotation of which he is fond)
 Hobbies: rock climbing, running
 Woodhead on Brighouse: "Hysterical" (interview in The Times Educational Supplement, January 1997)

that it needs to be clearer about and concentrate more exclusively on those things it does well. If it did, it would be even more effective."

The inspectors suggest that the authority has launched too many initiatives, although they acknowledge that most head teachers do not feel overwhelmed. Some strategies

were "so muddled as to be virtually meaningless".

Professor Brighouse will not comment until the final report is delivered this week, but he is said to regard some of the criticisms as personally motivated. An insider at the authority said yesterday: "Some of the conclusions are quite inconsistent with the inspection evidence, while others are pure opinion."

Officials from the authority met the inspection team late last month to challenge parts of the report. But the Ofsted system normally allows only factual errors to be corrected at this stage of drafting.

Mr Woodhead's annual progress report is expected to be more upbeat than in previous years, noting an improvement in standards but stressing the ground still to be made up if schools are to meet the exacting targets set by the Government. Weak leadership of schools, which was identified as widespread last year, is likely to be a continuing theme.

Birmingham goes from dunce to teacher's pet

WHEN John Patten was Education Secretary, Birmingham was condemned as a city unfit to run its own education service (John O'Leary writes).

But, since the advent of a Labour Government, it has been the testing ground for several of the Government's key education policies. Assessment at five, summer schools and

achievement targets are all well established, while the Year of Numeracy, planned nationally for 2000, took place last year in the second city.

The education authority has given parents "guarantees" for early years, primary and secondary education. Every year since 1996 has been given a different educational theme.

Schools are grouped into "families" with similar catchment areas and their performance monitored minutely; every school aims to improve on its previous best.

Teachers and parents give the credit to Professor Tim Brighouse, who has a personal following verging on cult status in the city's schools. As the prime exponent of raising

achievement through carrot, rather than stick, Professor Brighouse fires off a battery of personal letters of congratulation and encouragement to ordinary teachers. Others talk of the inspirational quality of his constant round of school visits.

Over four years, the proportion of 16-year-olds gaining five or more high-grade GCSEs has risen from 27

per cent to 36 per cent, but is still below the national average. Other authorities have raised their scores more dramatically, and Birmingham still has more schools than any other authority at the bottom of the tables.

The city registered significant improvement in last week's primary school tables, but is still in the bottom quarter of the national ranking.

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Mr and Mrs Allen are aged 48 and 47 and live in Liverpool. They have two children who are at school. Their 16-year-old Sarah (16) who is entering the sixth form this year. Mr Allen is a policeman and Mrs Allen is a college lecturer. The Allens are attracted to the flexibility of a Personal Choice Mortgage and the free remortgage package because Mrs Allen is going to become self-employed and work from home providing special courses to senior students.

By transferring a mortgage of £70,000 against a property value of £120,000 they will be able to increase and decrease their monthly payments, take payment holidays and pay in lump sums from time to time depending on how well Mrs Allen is doing. They also intend to use their cheque book facility to help Sarah when she goes up to University in two years time.

Susan Oliver is aged 29 and single. She lives in Oxford and works as a freelance journalist. Susan intends studying for an MBA while continuing her work and is remortgaging her home with a loan of £35,000 against a value of £65,000. She will raise capital of £10,000 with her Personal Choice Mortgage and use it to help fund her studies. The free remortgage package and flexibility were key factors in her decision to switch her mortgage to Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct.

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Shop sold computer holding patients' files

A CHAIN store is to be investigated by government watchdogs after it sold on a computer carrying confidential patient files. The machine was bought in central London by Sean Galvin, a freelance computer consultant. He claims that the salesman at Dixons told him that the computer was "ex-demonstration".

On getting the laptop home he was shocked to find that it contained letters and the names and addresses of patients of a psychiatrist. "This had been someone else's machine, not just used by a salesman in the shop or for work overnight," said Mr Galvin.

There is widespread concern over the number of second-hand machines being resold still carrying sensitive electronic files.

Yesterday the doctor concerned said that he had been assured by the high-street chain that his data would be purged from the computer before it was resold. He said that had the computer been bought by an unscrupulous person, he and his patients could have been at risk of blackmail.

Data protection officials are to examine allegations about the sale by a chain store of a laptop that formerly belonged to a psychiatrist. Nick Nuttall reports

"This is highly confidential material. I was guaranteed by Dixons that the computer would be wiped clean and that I would have first call on the data," said the doctor, who had returned the computer in exchange for a new one after it broke down under guarantee.

Mr Galvin went to a branch of Dixons in Oxford Street last Wednesday. He said that there were a number of machines on sale described as ex-demonstration. He decided to buy a Toshiba Satellite 200 CDS, for £499 — a saving of £500. When he got the computer home he had difficulty getting it to operate. "I was looking at ways of rebuilding and repairing it. Before I re-formatted the entire system I decided to see if there was anything valuable, such as useful software. That is when I

started to find directories. At first I thought they must be a salesman's who had taken the computer home for the night," he said.

"Then I found it was information belonging to a psychiatrist, including personal letters, clients' letters, appointments and names and addresses," he said.

The Times has handed details of the case to David Smith, the assistant registrar at the Data Protection Registrar. "We will investigate the case. We would treat this as a serious matter," he said. If Dixons had agreed to clean information off the computer, it may have broken the data protection laws, Mr Smith said.

He added, however, that computer-owners had a responsibility to ensure that sensitive, personal information

was removed before a machine was sold on. "A lot of people think if they press 'delete' the information has disappeared. But it is likely to still be there on the hard disk," said Mr Smith.

Dixons said it had not been told by the doctor that the computer carried sensitive information. A spokeswoman said Mr Galvin had been told the shop could clean the machine of old data but that the customer had not taken up the offer. She denied that they had broken trade descriptions laws by selling a second-hand computer as ex-demonstration.

In a statement, Dixons said: "Customers have the responsibility for information held on their personal computers. In normal circumstances we would try to provide customers with added security by wiping files before reselling any refurbished PCs."

They had had the Toshiba returned, had given Mr Galvin a replacement, and would be contacting the doctor to ask if there were any files he wanted before they were erased.



Girl shot with air pistol may lose sight

By DANIEL MCGROW

THE shooting of a 12-year-old girl with a high-powered air pistol illustrates the menace of a weapon that MPs and police argue has for too long been dismissed as an object of "harmless, adolescent fun".

Emma Kirby was walking with friends near her home in Wythenshawe, Manchester, last week when a pellet lodged in her right eye. Surgeons have been fighting to save her sight. It is thought the gun was fired by a boy aged 10.

Chief Inspector Peter Aaronson, who is investigating Emma's shooting, said airguns were not toys "and for the life of me I cannot think of why they are not prohibited".

Emma's mother, Sue Kirby, said last night: "There should be a complete ban on these weapons."

□ A campaign to increase the age at which people can own airguns will be launched at Westminster this week.

Emma Kirby, who was shot in the eye while walking with friends near her home

Journey into the mind of a driver

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

GOVERNMENT researchers have been ordered to find out why motorists are willing to be stuck in traffic jams rather than leave their cars at home and catch the train.

The Highways Agency plans to spend £3 million next year on the project after John Prescott, the Transport Secretary, told it to concentrate less on road-building and more on curing congestion.

Researchers will also examine drivers' attitudes to speed, and to speed-control projects on motorways, such as that used on part of the M25. Planners suspect that many motorists drive out of habit rather than conviction, and that ignorance of alternatives is sometimes a factor in their willingness to drive despite the risk of traffic jams. Agency managers will use the results of the research in a campaign to persuade motorists to use other forms of transport.

The research coincides with the agency's decision to set up electronic message signs on motorways and main roads, telling drivers of delays ahead and alternative forms of transport. The agency is also preparing to create bus lanes on motorways.

New prize as Monty outstrips top films

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

THE Full Monty, this week confirmed as the biggest grossing film in Britain, added to its already impressive list of prizes last night by scooping best film at the Evening Standard Film Awards in London.

Robert Carlyle flew in from Prague where he is making his latest film, *Plunkett and McLean*, to pick up his best actor Eros award for his work in *The Full Monty*. *Face and Carla's Song*.

Hollywood star Michael Keaton presented the best film award to *Full Monty* director Peter Cattaneo.

The film has taken £47.8 million at the British box office, just beating the previous Hollywood record-holder, *Jurassic Park*, which took £47.7 million. It has taken over £20 million more than the previous most successful British film, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

The latest trophy comes despite last month's disappointment at the Golden Globe Awards, where *The Full Monty* lost out in the best comedy category to Jack Nicolson in *As Good As It Gets*.

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Minister warns banks over return of 100% mortgages

The Government fears a revival of negative equity and instability in the housing market, report Philip Webster and Gavin Lumsden

MINISTERS have issued warnings to banks and building societies over the growth of 100 per cent mortgages amid fears of a return to the irresponsible lending practices of the 1980s.

Although the Government is anxious not to be seen to be intervening directly in the housing market, there are growing concerns both at the Treasury and the Department of the Environment that the surge in house prices in London and the South East could spread nationwide.

Ministers are concerned at the impact on inflation, and at the prospect of the return of negative equity and repossessions that dogged homeowners under the previous Government.

The issue has been raised in private talks with the Council of Mortgage Lenders by Hilary Armstrong, the Housing Minister, and ministers from other Government departments. She has called on banks and building societies to provide a mortgage regime that is "flexible and sustainable".

Ministers want lenders to offer packages that allow young people to pay less in the early days of their mortgage and more as their earning power increases. But they do not believe that 100 per cent mortgages, which are being offered by some of the well-established lenders, are the way forward.

Ms Armstrong said yesterday: "We do not want to return to the bad old days when people were encouraged to put so much into their mortgages that they left themselves at risk of being unable to maintain their payments."

Ian Darby of John Charcol, a mortgage broker, said: "The risk of 100 per cent mortgages is that you get people who by rights should be renting for another 18 to 24 months being attracted to home ownership. If they have not been able to save a deposit quite often they are unable to afford the mortgage."

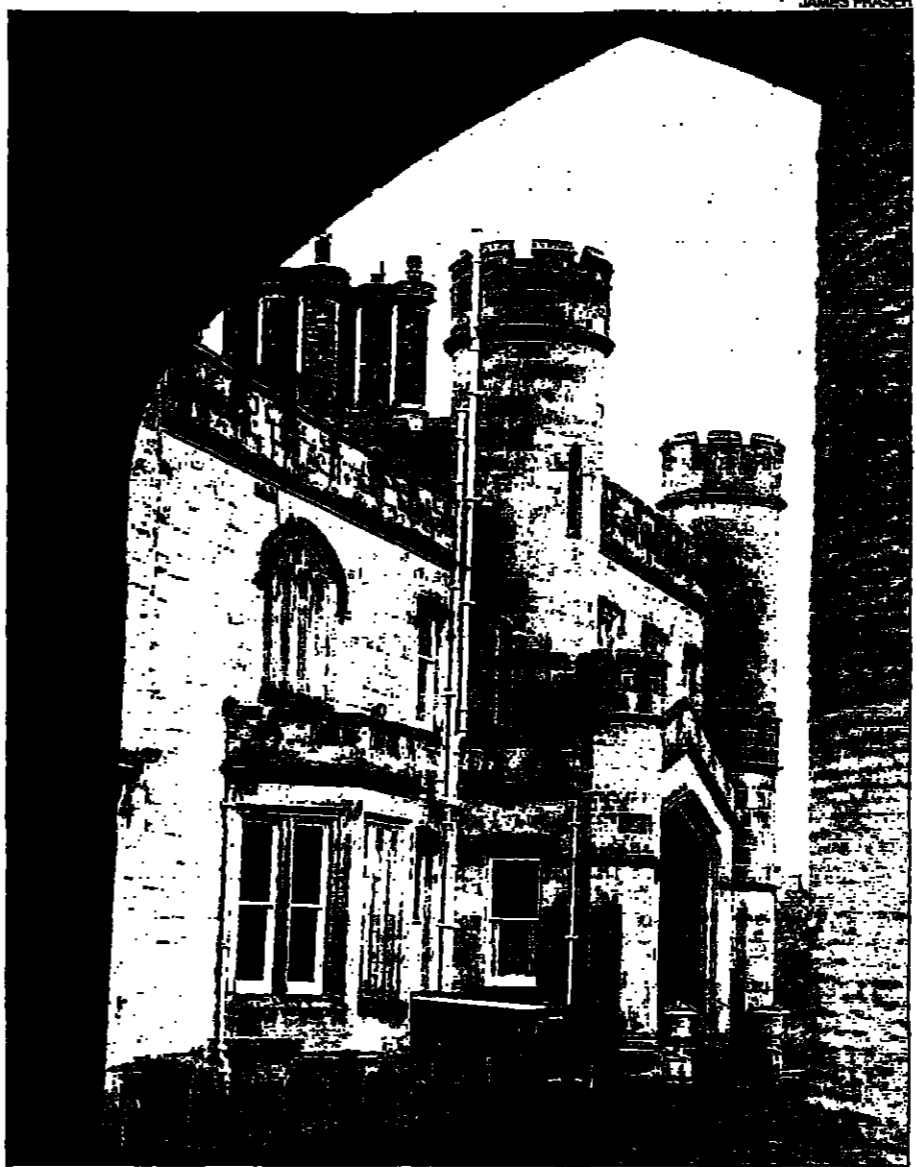
The fact that lenders demand high rates of interest from borrowers with no deposit only increases the risk of repossession. Unlike conventional mortgages, lenders make less effort to attract borrowers with discounts and fixed rates. In some cases the extra cost of 100 per cent mortgages reflects a troubled past. Mortgage Express, now owned by the Bradford & Bingley building society, and National Home Loans both struggled through the property collapse at the end of the 1980s and now charge more than 9 per cent interest.

Cash-strapped borrowers often add a further 2 per cent in paying costs to the loan. Add the 1 per cent fee they will have to pay estate agents to sell the home in the future and borrowers are starting off with substantial negative equity, Patrick Bunton of London & Country Mortgages points out.

Achieving such a level of finance still remains difficult. Most banks and building societies require borrowers to have saved at least 5 per cent of the value of the home they want to buy. Among the handful of lenders prepared to offer 100 per cent loans, the best-known names are the Abbey National, Bank of Scotland and Clydesdale Bank, the Bank of Ireland and the Yorkshire Building Society. All screen applicants carefully and will usually lend only to professionals.

If borrowers need a 100 per cent mortgage, most brokers will arrange a cheaper conventional loan for 75 per cent of the money and arrange a top-up loan from an insurer. This avoids borrowers having to pay thousands of pounds in mortgage indemnity guarantees.

In the past two years there has been an influx of specialist lenders from America, including City Mortgage Corporation, Southern Pacific and Money Store. All focus on borrowers with poor credit histories who find it difficult to borrow from high-street lenders. However, the American companies lend relatively low amounts, typically 65 or 70 per cent.



Dundas Castle, near Edinburgh, is available for £55,000 for the new year week

Somebody else's home can be your castle for millennium

By Rachel Kelly, Property Correspondent

OWNERS of some of Scotland's finest houses and castles are cashing in on the millennium by letting them for several times their usual rates. Others are renting out their homes as a one-off in order to fund vital repairs to roofs and balustrades and will share the special night with strangers.

Among the most expensive houses to rent is Dundas

Castle, near Edinburgh, owned by Sir Jack Stewart-Clark, the businessman and MEP for East Sussex and Kent South. It is to let for eight people, fully staffed, for £55,000 for the new-year week compared to its normal cost of £8,400.

The National Trust, the Landmark Trust and cottage letting agencies all report great demand, and the Land-

mark Trust is considering a ballot to deal with requests.

Tenants have already signed up to pay £10,000 a night for 14-century Duns Castle near Duns in the Borders owned by the Hay family. The house is not usually rented. Aline Hay said: "We have a long-term duty to the property. This will enable us to carry out repairs and redecking."

Baghdad waves balloon into no fly zone

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

THE round-the-world balloonists on board *Brilliant Orbiter* yesterday gave a further demonstration of their improvisational skills when they negotiated approval to fly over Iraq.

However, ahead of them is another major obstacle, China, which has yet to grant permission. "China is our big problem," Guy Sermer, a spokesman at the Geneva control centre, admitted.

After drifting further south than expected yesterday, the balloonists gained clearance from Baghdad within 20 minutes of asking. "We had been very concerned about Iraq but they said they had no objection," Alan Noble, the British flight director, said. They also defied an international air exclusion zone.

Yesterday evening the balloon descended from 27,000ft to fly over Iran, avoiding a jet stream higher up that would have swept it into Russia.

Given current weather patterns, *Orbiter's* meteorologists estimate that a change of altitude over India to allow the balloon to fly south and avoid China would reduce progress and threaten the circumnavigation. However, Mr Noble said they would not defy the Chinese authorities.

The balloon has already lost three days because of a series of technical hitches. The most serious, a leaky hatch that had threatened to scupper the 15,000-mile journey, was repaired thanks to Andy Elson, the 44-year-old British flight engineer. Wearing a parachute and climbing gear, he abseiled down the outside of the cabin to relocate the hatch cover while the balloon was flying two miles above the Adriatic.

"I just went with him on to the roof but it was more than enough, it was very frightening," Bertrand Piccard, the Swiss pilot, said. The third member of the crew is the Belgian co-pilot, Wim Verstraeten.



Armstrong: wants loans to be more flexible

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THE TIMES MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1998

Entrepreneurs tackle the art of diplomacy

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

THE Foreign Office has created a new breed of diplomat to sell the British film industry to Hollywood and British design to the French.

Bright young entrepreneurs have been recruited to the Foreign Office's traditional elite to boost British exports, particularly in the field of culture and the creative arts. Qualifications are no longer correct vowel sounds or knowing which knife and fork to use — the emphasis is on trendy ideas and expertise in a range of areas where the Government wishes to improve trade.

Gone, too, are the sober suits. Many of the short-term diplomats will work more comfortably in modern designer clothes or even jeans and T-shirts. The Foreign Office is working closely with Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, on the project.

The aim is to build on the success of the designer

summit arranged at Canary Wharf between Tony Blair and President Jacques Chirac of France last year. The initiative was devised by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, who is determined to open up the Foreign Office and to drum up new business opportunities for British firms. He has also decreed that no key ambassadorial post should go to a diplomat unless he has proven commercial experience. Details of the scheme for young business people are to be announced to MPs today.

The Foreign Office has already chosen 11 recruits for attachments as far afield as Brazil, Istanbul, Johannesburg, Budapest, Lisbon, Melbourne and New York.

Derek Fanchett, a Foreign Office Minister, said he was determined that Britain's new star companies should have the same help from the Government as traditional indus-



David Scammell taking coals to Hollywood

the task of selling British design to the French. She is a specialist in interiors and is on a six-month secondment from Levitt Bernstein Associates, architects and interior designers, to the British Embassy in Paris. She said last night that the French had been impressed by the Corran spectacle at the Anglo-British summit.

David Scammell, 42, marketing manager for Quantel, a subsidiary of Carlton Communications, has the star diplomatic role of heading for Hollywood. He wants more American film directors to use British locations and post-production facilities.

Mr Scammell, a graduate in physics and engineering at Brunel University, will be based in Los Angeles. His motivation was to help the Government was to help the British film industry after witnessing its frustrations first hand.

tries. "We are looking for short-term secondment for bright young people to work on specific projects. They will probably be in their mid-thirties and on the way up in their own organisation."

Gretta Doyle, 27, who studied architecture at Liverpool University, has landed



Gretta Doyle, a graduate in architecture, has landed the tricky task of selling British design to the French

Leading article, page 21

Convicted minister applauded at service

By a Correspondent

THE Church of Scotland minister convicted of terrifying his congregation by faking his own execution received a standing ovation from his parishioners yesterday.

As the Rev Earlsley White, 69, began the morning service at Park parish church, Uddingston, Lanarkshire, the congregation, many of them in tears, broke into applause.

White thanked them for the "support, love and kindness" they had shown him and his wife. Sitting near the front was Matthew Smith, the former SAS soldier who had played the mock gunman in the drama arranged by White a year ago to illustrate how missionaries were killed for preaching the Gospel.

Last week at Hamilton Sheriff Court, White and Smith were both found guilty of a breach of the peace, and Smith was convicted of possessing a loaded handgun. They will be sentenced later.

During the sermon, the minister made reference to the events. Referring to churchmen punished for their beliefs, he said: "Nobody is going to come in here, haul the minister out and throw him into jail. Although it might well happen one day."

Detective discovers lost apple in copse

By Simon de Bruxelles

ONE of Britain's oldest, rarest and tastiest cooking apples may make a comeback thanks to the efforts of amateur fruit detective Paul Selfe.

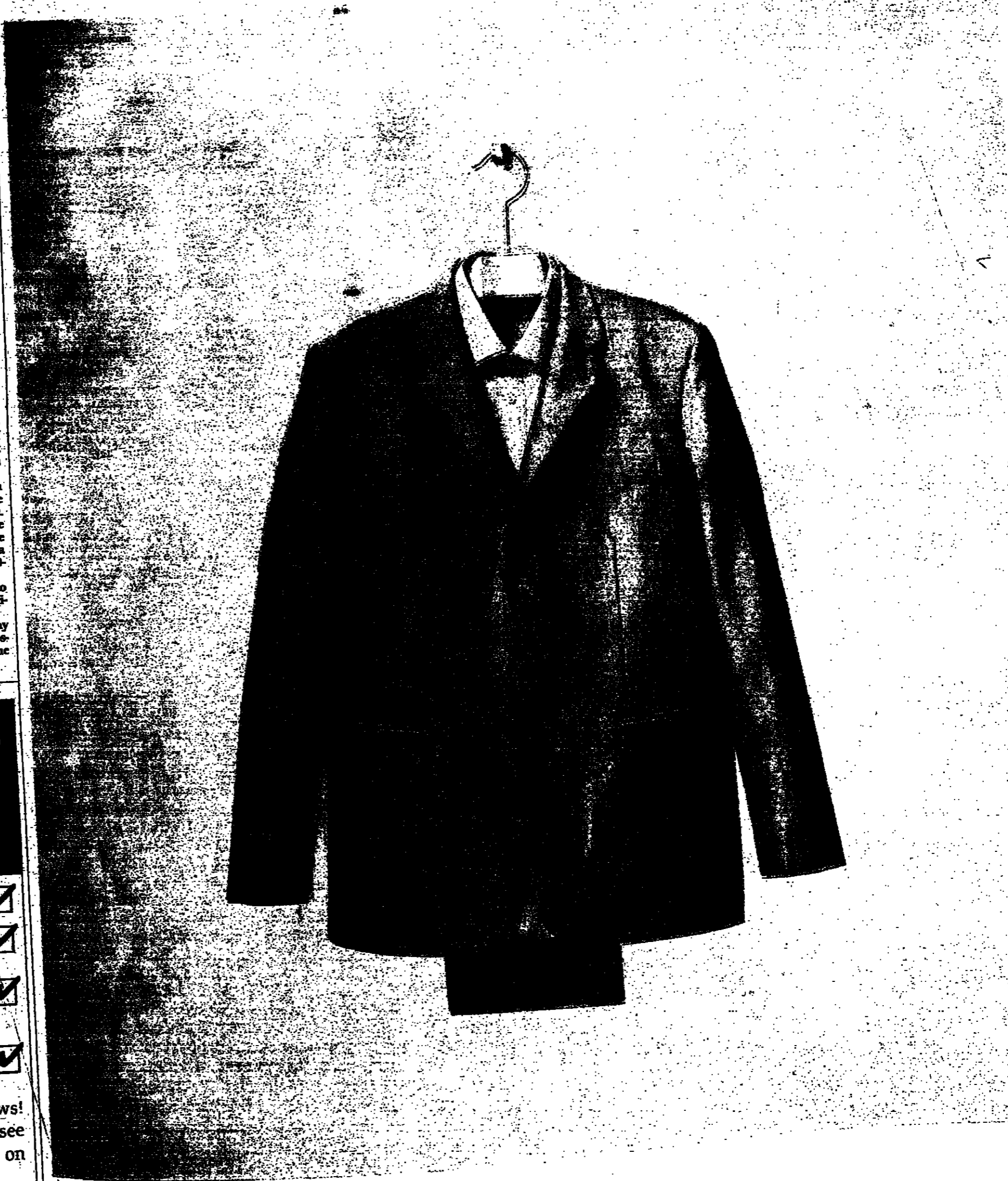
Apart from two trees in national collections, the Hereford Costard — first documented in 1292 — was thought to have died out more than a century ago. The apple gave the name costermonger to street vendors and barrow boys who started out as apple sellers.

Mr Selfe, 58, a retired teacher from Eardisland near Leominster, Hereford & Worcester, said: "We started recording memories of elderly villagers and several of them mentioned this ancient apple which had once grown in Eardisland."

"I looked around the area and eventually tried a copse near a 14th century house. There was one wild tree which caught my eye and the fruit seemed to match a description I found in a 100-year-old book."

Mr Selfe sent samples to the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley in Surrey.

The society's Charles Day said yesterday: "If the Costard is indeed growing in the wild it is very good news."



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Wetland subsidy goes down the drain



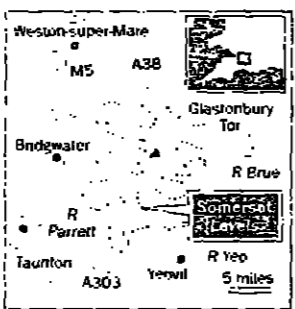
Dr Christopher Hancock, of the Somerset Wildlife Trust, checks the water level of the Sovey River drain. Despite £2.6 million in subsidies to farmers to leave the land undrained, the levels are drying out

Simon de Bruxelles reports on the launch of a last-ditch attempt to save the Somerset Levels from drying out

ENVIRONMENTAL subsidies are failing to protect the Somerset Levels, one of the country's largest and most important wetlands, conservationists will claim today.

Farmers and landowners receive up to £415 each year for every hectare of land left undrained, but the subsidy has failed to prevent the levels from drying out.

Each year Somerset farmers receive a total of £2.6 million in environmental payments, of which £400,000 is compensation for allowing "high water" in low-lying fields. A further £5 million a year is spent by the Environment Agency maintaining flood defences and pumping the water away from fields used for agriculture. But the scheme, which was introduced in 1991,



is flawed because it is voluntary. The result is a patchwork of waterlogged sites too scarce to sustain the vast flocks of wading birds for which the levels are vital breeding and wintering grounds.

Some species, such as snipe, have decreased by more than 80 per cent since the 1970s, and others have vanished from the

levels entirely. The Environment Agency, which is responsible for pumping out the water to maintain farmland and for protecting the wetlands, will mark World Wetlands Day today by launching an attempt to save the levels.

After a period of consultation, the agency hopes to strike a new deal with farmers and conservationists.

Roger Martin, director of the Somerset Wildlife Trust, who helped write today's report, said: "They are the highest environmental payments in the country but it may be that the system can no longer continue to be voluntary."

The greatest losses have occurred in the 15 years since a policy of large-scale drainage was stopped and the levels

FALLING ROCKS THREAT FORCES CHEDDAR GORGE CLOSURE

CHEDDAR GORGE, one of Britain's most popular natural attractions, has been closed because of the risk from falling rocks (Simon de Bruxelles writes).

Each year more than a million visitors drive through the gorge to marvel at its spectacular rocky slopes, described in the 12th century by Henry of Huntingdon as "one of the wonders of England". The

sides of the 430 ft-deep gorge have become dangerously unstable and threaten to fall on the winding road below, which in summer is clogged with sightseers and traffic.

Every winter the gorge is closed while contractors blast loose rock from the limestone cliff. But this year the climbing teams say that part of the gorge known as the Pinnacles is

too dangerous to work on and that hundreds of tons of rock are at risk of falling.

A decision on whether to reopen the gorge will not be taken until later this month, at the earliest. David Horne, transport planning manager with Somerset County Council, said: "The safety of the people is paramount and if that risk is unacceptable, then we must entertain closure."

to farmers is working well: very large areas are now fully protected under one agreement or another and the decline in breeding wading birds has been halted.

To a visitor, the Somerset Levels, an area of 150,000 acres, with their neat green fields bounded by pollarded willows and deep ditches as known as rhynes, appear a timeless landscape. This is an illusion. Drainage has caused the large areas of peat to decompose, in the process releasing carbon dioxide which exacerbates the "greenhouse effect" blamed for global warming. Rhynes, which were once full of water a year round now dry out in summer as the levels slowly drain.

Half a century ago, a thousand acres of Somerset would flood each winter as they had done for thousands of years. Large areas where today you can walk without getting your feet wet could be crossed only by boats as recently as the 1950s.

Mr Martin said: "In no way should any blame be attached to the farmers for what has happened to the levels. They have businesses to run. But I would like those farmers who treat it like any other dry land agriculture to think again and look at other options."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sellafield staff in radiation accident

An investigation is underway into a leak at the Sellafield nuclear plant that left two workers contaminated with radioactivity. The men, whose radiation levels are being monitored, were among 13 in a building at the reprocessing facility when a bag containing a waste nuclear filter was damaged. Part of the building remains sealed off as checks are carried out.

Age concerns

A survey of more than 250 residents and staff in 71 old people's homes in north London, Leeds and Sheffield found that at many families were too intimidated to voice concerns because of an "and recurrent of fear".

Knocked out

Police in Manchester broke up an illegal fight for the title of UK Bare Knuckle Boxing Champion, but were unable to detain the contestants, who escaped into a large crowd of gypsies and Irish travellers.

Magazine ban

WH Smith has withdrawn the February issue of PC Zone magazine because it contains computer-generated images of children killing animals. The RSPCA said: "If this is a joke, it's misplaced."

Note-padded

PC Barrie Savory, 48, was saved from being stabbed in the heart by his notebook after being attacked by a robbery suspect in Pontypridd, South Wales. A man has been charged with attempted murder.

Long shot

Canon Clive Southerton, 58, from Prestatyn, Cwyd, is preparing to set a new world record by delivering a 50-hour sermon this April. His previous record, 37 hours 55 minutes, was beaten by an Indian who spoke for 42 hours.

Recipe for love

A "love sausage" is on sale for Valentine's Day, including the supposedly aphrodisiac ingredients oysters, root ginger and ginseng. The sausages, with pink wrapping and a space for a message, are available from Tesco.

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MP turns nose up at placenta stir-fry

By VALERIE ELLIOTT

A COOKERY programme showing a family from Hull eating the placenta of their first grandchild is to be monitored by the Independent Television Commission, the watchdog body.

The pledge was given to Kevin McNamara, Labour MP for Hull North, last week after he wrote to Sir Robin Bingham, ITC chairman, urging him to prevent "such an obscene programme" being screened. He said the act was cannibalism.

"The feast of 'placenta pâté' is part of Channel 4's TV *Dinners* series and is to be screened on Wednesday at 8.30pm, before the watershed. The placenta of the child, Indie-Mo, was removed from the hospital by his grandmother, Mary, 42, a social worker, and kept in his deep freeze until the baby's welcome party.

The programme shows a family friend, identified only as Sue, flash-frying strips of placenta with shallots and garlic. Two thirds of the mixture is then puréed and the rest flambéed in brandy.

About 20 members of family and friends are served the course, with father, Lee, eating 14 helpings and likening it to a "Mediterranean beef dish".

Jane Stephenson, a producer with Ricochet, the company which makes the series, said the programme had been checked by Channel 4, which was happy that it did not offend against taste and decency.

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THE TIMES MONDAY FEBRUARY 2 1998

Australian polls show swing to plan for republic

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE People's Convention on whether to declare Australia a republic opens in Canberra today as opinion polls claimed that more than two thirds of the population favoured setting constitutional links with Britain.

The *Weekend Australian* surveyed 67 per cent of those questioned supported a republic, suggesting a significant shift in popular opinion since plans for the conference were announced by the Government last year.

Suddenly Australians are no longer discussing the possibility of dismissing the Queen as head of state, but the inevitability of appointing their own President.

For the next two weeks 152 elected and appointed delegates will fill the old Parliament House in Canberra to discuss what shape the republican alternative should be

and when and how the changeover should take place. Given that republican sympathisers hold the majority among the elected delegates, the outcome seems a foregone conclusion.

The convention will almost certainly decide to recommend a referendum, opening the possibility of Australia having its own head of state by the turn of the century. The only uncertainty surrounds the method of electing a President.

John Howard, the Prime Minister, who will open today's talks, favours an election by a two-thirds majority of parliament. The head of the Republican Movement, Malcolm Turnbull, agrees. But given the public's level of mistrust when it comes to those who govern them, the people want a popularly elected President.

The Prime Minister fears

this will give the President too much power and effectively create a fourth tier of government — local, state, federal and presidential — in a grossly over-governed nation.

Even if they agree on the fine print and come up with a workable republican model, delegates will not be able to decide it or when the final fixing of constitutional ties will take place.

Only a referendum which produces an overall majority in most states in support of a republic can decide the issue. And only the Government of the day will be able to decide the date of transition.

Mr Howard has said he would favour January 1, 2001, but Kim Beazley, the Opposition leader, wants a new head of state sworn in in time for the Sydney Olympics, which will be held in September 2000.



Taha Abdel Razek, 23, front, shouts as he and Dr Gamal Abu Rawash, 32, were sentenced to death yesterday by a military court near Cairo for belonging to the outlawed Gamaa al-Islamiya militant Islamic group

Cave was 'cradle of Greek tragedy'

FROM JOHN CARR IN ATHENS

A STONE AGE cave on the island of Salamis, a few miles from Athens, is where Euripides, the Athenian tragedian of the 5th century BC, isolated himself to write some of his early plays, a Greek archaeologist has said.

After a year exploring the cave overlooking Peristeria Bay, Yannis Lolos is convinced that it is the one in which Euripides wrote. Mr Lolos cites two pieces of evidence. One is a fragmented bowl with "Euripides" inscribed on it. The other is a description of the sea view from the cave in *Hippolytus*, one of his early plays.

"After examining the scenery and studying what we know of Euripides' life as well as the *Hippolytus* text, I have come to the conclusion that he wrote the play in this cave," Mr Lolos said. Strengthening the Euripidean connection are 18 fragments of a large bowl with what look like scenes from another of his works, *Bacchae*.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Chinese send four poets to prison

FOUR Chinese poets have been detained in the same week that Washington published a report stating that "there were positive steps in human rights" in China (Jonathan Mirsky writes).

According to the Hong Kong-based Human Rights and Democracy Information Centre for China, the poets were arrested in southwest China's Guizhou province last Monday, after announcing they were about to publish a new poetry journal advocating a "literary renaissance". Publishing a magazine in China without official permission is illegal, although hundreds on innocuous subjects appear with impunity. The four poets — Wu Ruohai, Xiong Jintan, Ma Zhe and Ma Qiang — were allegedly arrested for conducting poetry "salons".

King Hussein admits illness

King Hussein of Jordan has admitted in a letter to Crown Prince Hassan, his heir, read on Jordanian television that he has a bacterial infection that has caused months of fatigue and fever (Christopher Walker writes). It is believed to have been broadcast to explain frequent absences for which he has been criticised and contained a warning to Iraq that its rejection of UN demands was "dangerous misjudgment".

Algerian child's throat cut

Paris: A total of 32 Algerians, including a three-year-old child whose throat was cut and 16 Muslim rebels, have died in further violence, Algerian newspapers reported. More than 1,200 civilians were killed in massacres between Christmas and the end of Ramadan last Wednesday. In the southwest region of Saida, security forces shot dead ten rebels as they tried to carry out a massacre last Thursday, *La Tribune* said. (Reuters)

Royal paddle-steamer treat



Amsterdam: European monarchs and celebrities joined Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, left, on a paddle-steamer cruise yesterday to mark her 60th birthday. The Queen's guests included King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain and the Prince of Wales. On Saturday the monarch and her husband, Prince Claus, hosted a gala dinner and ball at the royal palace in Amsterdam attended by her parents, Princess Juliana, 88, and Prince Bernhard, 86. (Reuters)

Challenge by belly-dancer

Jerusalem: An Israeli belly-dancer, suing the Egyptian ambassador here for attempted rape, is to contest his claim of diplomatic immunity, her lawyer said (Christopher Walker writes). Mohammed Bassioumy, ambassador for 17 years, cited diplomatic immunity for refusing to accept a summons. The lawyer said the case does not involve diplomatic business.

Yeltsin enjoys birthday pie

Moscow: President Yeltsin celebrated his 67th birthday yesterday with cabbage pie at a quiet family party at his country residence outside Moscow. (Robin Lodge writes). He looked healthier than at any time since his heart surgery just over a year ago. Last week Mr Yeltsin announced that he would not be seeking a third term in office and even had a successor in mind.

Sandinista paper closes

Miami: *Barricada*, the once famous daily that served in the 1980s as the voice of Nicaragua's Sandinista revolution, has closed after a dispute with its employees over unpaid salaries (David Adams writes). Journalists who earn salaries worth barely £100 a month complain that the paper's debt to its 230 employees amounts to almost £53,000.

Desert yields papyrus finds

Cairo: Canadian archaeologists have unearthed about 2,000 papyrus scrolls in good condition dating from Egypt's Hellenistic and Roman periods, Gaballah Ali Gaballah, the country's chief archaeologist said yesterday. He said that the scrolls were found in the Western Desert and added: "It is the most important find of papyrus [of the] periods in decades." (AP)

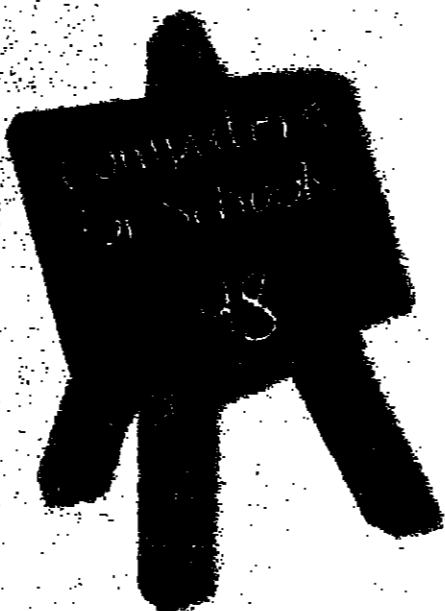
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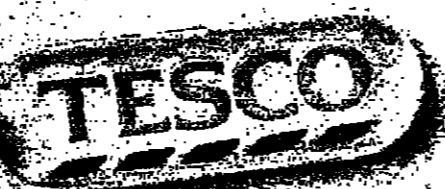
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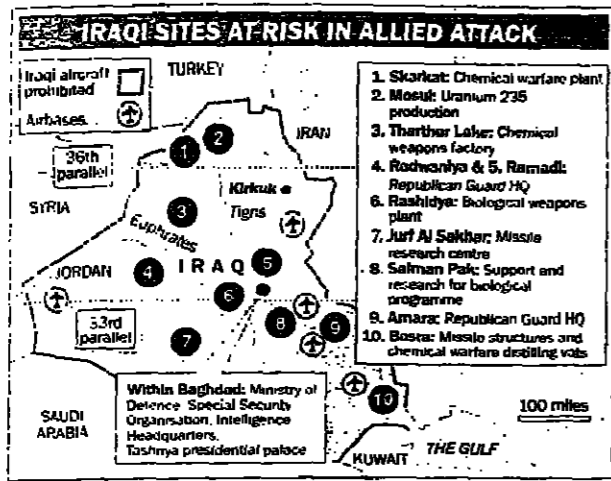
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Washington seeks to keep Saddam guessing over choice of targets



THE United States now has 20 ships, 279 military aircraft and more than 28,000 troops in or on the way to the Gulf, and Washington is consulting its main allies, principally Britain, on how and where these should be used in any attack on Iraq. Washington will not announce the targets of any strike for political and strategic reasons. But there is widespread speculation among military analysts that these could include the so-called "sensitive sites" and eight palaces where President Saddam Hussein has denied access to United Nations weapons inspectors, heightening suspicions that weapons of mass destruction have been made or stored there.

George Robertson, the Defence

Elite forces likely to be attacked, writes Michael Binyon

Secretary, said yesterday that he would not identify any targets because the allies wanted to keep Saddam guessing. However, William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, said in an interview at the weekend that any attack launched by the United States would be "significant", although it would not aim to destroy the country or topple Saddam. Most of Iraq's rockets and nuclear

capabilities have already been identified and destroyed by the UN Special Commission (Unsmoc) inspectors. The greatest remaining threat is from biological and chemical weapons, many of them manufactured in secret laboratories. Western intelligence and the UN inspectors have identified many of the sites, most of which are in and around Baghdad or in central Iraq between the northern and southern "no-fly" zones imposed by the allies after the Gulf War. The biggest factor for the production of chemical weapons has been identified at Tharthar Lake, in northwestern Iraq; the biological research programme is largely centred on Salman Pak, south of

Baghdad; and uranium production and the manufacture of equipment for chemical warfare are in the largely Kurdish north, near Mosul and Kirkuk. Mr Cohen said at the weekend that any military action would aim to cripple Iraq's capacity to reconstruct weapons of mass destruction. An attack would also concentrate on Saddam's conventional strength, especially the bases for the Republican Guard, the elite military units who owe personal loyalty to the President. They have bases in western Iraq as well as in the south and at the headquarters of special forces north of Baghdad. Air bases, mostly in the east, are obvious targets in case any remain-

ing fighters tried to intercept an allied attack. The headquarters of Saddam's intelligence organisation, military machine and security apparatus are all in the capital and would be an important early target. However, they are all sited in heavily populated areas and any air attack could lead to civilian casualties. One main reason why the West will not outline where any strike would be directed is the fear that Saddam would immediately move thousands more civilians to the area to strengthen the "human shields" he has used to deter Western bombing.

Leading article, page 21
FALAH KASSER / REUTERS

'Wider war' risk as Israelis win right to hit back

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE United States will permit Israel to defend itself in the event of an attack by Iraq. This admission yesterday by Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, introduced new uncertainties as the US continued its military build-up against President Saddam Hussein. Ms Albright's remark raised the possibility of a wider war if any allied attack on Iraq results in a revenge attack on Israel by Baghdad. The uncertainties were further underlined when William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, admitted that air attacks on Iraq would not remove Saddam or wipe out his arsenal of deadly weapons. Mr Cohen told reporters at the Pentagon: "Let's not raise unreasonable expectations." He added that it was never possible to have complete elimination of weapons by air attack and that military action was "no adequate substitute" for having United Nations weapons inspectors scrutinising sites on the ground. The candour of the remarks by Mr Cohen, the only Republican in President Clinton's Cabinet, caught Washington by surprise, contrasting as they did with the President's ringing message in his State of the Union speech last week

DIPLOMACY

focus of intensive diplomatic activity this week as several countries launch efforts to persuade Saddam to back down. France was reported to be sending a special envoy and Turkey announced Ismail Cem, its Foreign Minister, would travel to the Iraqi capital, Nikita Smidovich, a senior Russian envoy, was already on his way yesterday for his second visit in a week. Despite Mr Clinton's expressions of resolve, top intelligence officials have told Congress that "enormous gaps" exist in America's knowledge about the exact locations of all Saddam's hidden stockpiles and weapons factories. Mr Cohen said strikes could curtail Saddam's ability to make germ warfare and poison gas, but they could not render him completely harmless. If raids proved necessary, care would be taken to protect Iraqi civilians from injury and from chemical or biological contamination of the atmosphere. The Pentagon was perfecting "bunker busters" that could incinerate spores and gases underground. A report in the Tel Aviv daily Haaretz stated that the US has agreed in principle to supply Israel with large quantities of vaccine against biological weapons.

that the US was determined to use weapons of mass destruction ever again. Ms Albright, speaking after talks with Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, said the US was prepared to use "substantial force" against Iraq if diplomacy fails to end its obstruction of UN inspectors. Any Iraqi threat to attack other states in the region would not go unpunished, she added. "If they do threaten their neighbours, or do damage to them, our response will be swift and forceful." In Washington, however, Mr Cohen was clearly trying to lower public expectations. His remarks reflect a concern in Washington that if Mr Clinton does decide to bomb Iraq the achievements will be far from decisive. Indeed, the raids could worsen the impasse, leaving Saddam still in power and rebuilding his weapons but no longer offering even limited access to outside inspectors. With Western diplomats predicting a maximum of two weeks before airstrikes are launched, Baghdad will be the



An Iraqi soldier brandishes a rifle yesterday as he encourages students at a school in Baghdad to volunteer for weapons training

World attitudes in state of flux as crisis deepens

By MICHAEL BINYON

NO COUNTRY has called publicly for military action against Iraq. Even Britain, which takes the toughest line among America's Nato allies, says that it still wants a diplomatic solution. But polit-

ical attitudes are changing as the crisis deepens. Russia: still opposes military action and has said so repeatedly in Security Council debates. When Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said after their weekend meeting that America's patience was wearing thin, Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, said in English: "We are a little bit more patient." Special envoy Viktor Posuvalyuk is now en route again to Baghdad. France: has also opposed force in Security Council debates. Its opposition is more muted now, after Ms Albright's weekend talks in Paris. French forces are not preparing for a new Gulf role. France is sending an envoy to Baghdad on Tuesday.

ALLIES

Germany: remains largely silent, although public opinion is likely to oppose any new Gulf action, as it opposed the 1991 war. Germany does not believe it needs to take a stand on the issue and is not preparing to contribute forces. China: publicly opposes the use of force, although British officials said that Chinese leaders told Robin Cook in private that President Saddam Hussein's behaviour was unacceptable. Egypt: President Mubarak said yesterday that he hoped Washington would not use force - the time was not right. Iraq: President Khatami, striking a moderate pose, urged the head of the 55-

member Islamic Conference to mediate to avert a strike against Iraq. Turkey: opposes military action, and suggested it would refuse the use of its bases in an attack. Ismail Cem, the Foreign Minister, said yesterday that he had offered to mediate. Israel: strongly supports the tough American line and warned Iraq that it would launch its own devastating attack, should any missiles be aimed at Israel. Argentina: ready to join any military action. Guido Di Tella, the Foreign Minister, is quoted as saying: "Certainly Argentina would accompany any military intervention in the Gulf." During the Gulf War in 1991, President Menem sent two naval vessels to join the coalition forces.



Posuvalyuk arriving in Amman yesterday

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'Persecutor' Starr boosts Democrats

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE perception that Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, is part of a right-wing conspiracy against President Clinton appeared yesterday to have galvanised Democratic Party loyalists, who have raised large campaign funds during the Monica Lewinsky controversy.

Until Mr Starr became associated with the Whitewater investigation he was almost universally admired for his affability and probity. Almost four years later, however, the son of a fundamentalist Texas minister has found himself engaged in the political equivalent of mortal combat with the President. He is being accused of conducting a politically motivated witch-hunt, of relentlessly searching for dirt to justify his appointment as independent counsel in 1994.

staff; the gathering of FBI files on former Republican members of the Administration; and the discovery of records relating to Hillary Clinton's work at the Rose Law Firm in Little Rock, Arkansas.

It was the First Lady who publicly voiced last week the White House view that Mr Starr had become part of a right-wing conspiracy, a "politically motivated prosecutor" allied to her husband's opponents. Her comments appeared to have won acceptance around the country, with almost twice as many of the people surveyed in various polls saying they were upset with the independent counsel as with the President.

Many believed Mr Starr had been driven more by partisan politics than by an impartial search for the truth. They were troubled that Mr Starr's office had wired Linda Tripp to record Ms Lewinsky's tale of her alleged affair. He is being denounced as a conservative zealot by the White House and its supporters. Mr Starr probably has not helped himself with his record as a conservative activist.

His continuing affiliation to the Bradley Foundation and the Washington Legal Foundation, conservative groups both critical of Clinton policies, has merely helped to fuel his reputation as a conservative Big Brother.

Between these two extremes, his inquiry has encompassed the mysterious death of Vincent Foster, the deputy White House counsel; the sacking of White House travel office

Starr: he is accused of mounting a witch-hunt



President Clinton and his daughter, Chelsea, leave Washington for Camp David

Storm rages on Reagan airport tribute

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

BATTLE will be joined this week between Republicans and Democrats over a rush to rename Washington National Airport after Ronald Reagan in time for his 87th birthday on Friday.

Opponents in the American capital are appalled, but sponsors say the idea of honouring the former Republican President is popular across the country. With Republicans controlling both chambers of Congress, they expect the House to pass the measure tomorrow and for the Senate to vote on Thursday in time to speed the Bill to President Clinton for signature on Mr Reagan's birthday.

Yesterday, however, Senate Democrats were considering parliamentary manoeuvres to sabotage the legislation by trying to add amendments that Republicans would find unacceptable. One criticism is that Mr Reagan, who is suffering from Alzheimer's Disease, already has a new government building named after him in the centre of Washington.

Other complaints are that air travellers would find the name Ronald Reagan National Airport confusing and that Washington National already bears the name of a former President. The Reagan backers say the airport's name derives from its proximity to the capital, not to honour America's first President.

Among other carping, the airport authority says it would cost \$60,000 (£36,000) to change all the signs. Robert Downing, a wealthy developer, offered to pay the \$60,000. He said: "This may very well be the last birthday Ronald Reagan has. It will mean more to him and his family to do it now."

Paul Coverdell, the Republican senator sponsoring the name change, asked why Democrats and others cannot accept that Mr Reagan was a great leader "who is wounded and near the end."

White House officials have said it is too soon to say whether Mr Clinton will sign the Bill, but to besmirch Mr Reagan's legacy and upset Republicans by vetoing the idea are unattractive options.



Reagan: "wounded and near the end"

America split on woman's execution

FROM TUNKE VARADARASAN IN HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS

AMERICA'S attention yesterday appeared to swing between two cases: the execution of Karla Faye Tucker, a killer who is almost certain to be executed here tomorrow, and the case of George Bush Jr, the Governor of Texas, to spare the life of the woman who introduced two people with an axe to Texas.

The state parole board will announce this morning whether it will recommend that Tucker be granted clemency. Few in Texas, however, believe that it will. Dick DeGuerin, the top criminal lawyer in Houston, said: "Believe me, Karla Tucker is going to die on Tuesday."

Mr DeGuerin said there were no legal grounds on which Tucker could be granted clemency. "She received a fair trial. She was properly represented. And she has repeatedly admitted her guilt. Thirty-seven people were executed in Texas last year and I don't see how the board will treat her case differently."

This would let Mr Bush off the hook; if the board does not make a recommendation of clemency, he has to power to take action on his own. Mr DeGuerin, however, says Mr Bush should already have taken a stand and come out against execution.

Others disagree. A senior figure in the state's Republican establishment said: "The Governor has always said that he favours the death penalty. If he were to make an exception in the Tucker case, he would only open himself up to the charge of opportunism."

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'Disneyland' fears for historic Rome

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

A ROW has broken out over an experiment under which classical statues and busts displayed in Rome are being replaced secretly by fake copies in an attempt to counteract the damage caused by pollution, vandalism, theft and mass tourism.

Eugenio La Rocca, Rome's Superintendent of Culture, disclosed yesterday that the city council had devised a plan to replace thousands of statues with copies by 2000, when up to 40 million pilgrims and tourists are expected to visit the Eternal City for millennium celebrations. Professor La Rocca said the

scheme had started "without publicity" at the 16th-century Villa Aldobrandini, in its recently restored gardens in the centre of Rome, what appeared to be original statues of Roman emperors and deities were in fact moulded from hardwearing synthetic resins of the kind used to make false teeth.

Officials said that the original works were being removed to museums, where they could be seen "more securely".

Carla Benacci, an art historian who helps to administer Rome's historic villas, said that there was "no alternative to replicas if we want to conserve our monuments. Many are in a terrible state because they are exposed all the time to weather, vandalism and traffic fumes." She said that the copies at the Villa Doria Pamphili were so faithful to the originals that art thieves had tried recently to steal them without realising they were copies.

But La Repubblica said there was a risk that Rome itself would become a "Disneyland of fake sculpture".

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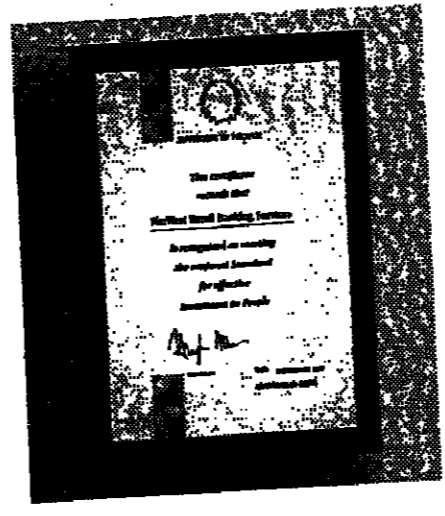
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EU tells sport to play by its rules

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE scene is being set for a struggle over the management of sport in Europe as the European Commission has embarked on a drive to clip the wings of the governing powers of football and motor racing. Uefa, the European football association, and the FIA, the motor-racing authority that runs Formula One, are both in the sights of Karel van Miert, the Competition Commissioner, as he wages a campaign against what he sees as illegal restrictive practices. Two years since the European Court's Bosman decision forced a revolution in football's rules on transfers and foreign players, Mr van Miert and his team are applying the EU's trading laws to test long-

accepted practices under which governing bodies lay down their sporting laws. In the process, the Belgian Commissioner is being accused of meddling in fields that are beyond his jurisdiction. "The bottom line is that professional sports are big business," says Mr van Miert. The growth of huge television-driven profits have increased the need for an outside referee, he says. In the latest episode, a complaint to the Commission from the English Football League spurred a decision last Friday by Uefa to reverse its rejection of the League winner from the Uefa Cup competition. The Commission now wants Fia to relax tight rules on licensing players' agents and it is investigating geographic restrictions on clubs. It is also challenging a Uefa refusal to let Mouscron, a small Belgian club, use the big stadium in the nearby French city of Lille. Lawyers are also preparing a European Union challenge to the refusal of the Football Association of Ireland to plans by Wimbledon to relocate to Dublin. Disgruntled clubs and players from a range of sports are now taking grievances against their authorities to the Commission. Mr van Miert's quarrel with Fia, the world football authority, and Uefa, its European sister, came to a head with reports in December that they wanted the EU's founding treaty to be modified for sport. "There can be no question of professional sports being exempted from the treaty provisions or of attempting to sidestep rulings from the Court of Justice," Mr van Miert riposted. The sports bosses say the Commission is embarking on a slippery slope that could disrupt established sports and swamp it with cases. That argument is coming from Max Mosley's FIA, the motorsport body that has become Mr van Miert's bete noire. On Thursday, the FIA set the scene for a mammoth fight when it rejected all the Commission's charges that the Formula One system amounted to an illegal monopoly. The claims, which focus on Bernie Ecclestone, the power behind Formula One, "are erroneous or based on a very limited understanding", the FIA said. The quarrel has forced Mr Ecclestone to suspend plans to float his Formula One Holdings. The racers say Mr van Miert fails to understand that a global sport must have a central authority to regulate events and channel tele-

vision income. The alternative would be chaos. The Commission, in turn, is unhappy over the FIA's lock on events and venues and its recognition of only one motorsport body per country. "If a track owner wants to hold a Formula One race then he should be free to try," said one Commission official. But the sport dismisses such arguments as naive. However, Mr van Miert insists that Mr Ecclestone has no chance of winning the clearance he sought for flotation unless the FIA changes its rules. "At the moment the whole set-up is layer upon layer of exclusive deals amounting to cartel behaviour added to abuse of dominant position for the benefit of one company," he said. The argument is expected to reach the European Court.

Spectre of the Holocaust back to haunt Berlin

INSIDE GERMANY

Dog owners know that the early morning walk is both the worst and the best part of the day. Bone-cold or cheerfully fresh, there is time for reflection before the work routine sets in. Berliners living close to the Ku'damm, the city's main shopping boulevard, used to let their dogs sniff around a stretch of scruffy green known as Los Angeles Square. The only feature in common with LA were the crack addicts clustered around the park benches: it was nonetheless a lively place, a city meeting point buzzing with skateboarders, infants on swings, Swedish au pairs and gossips from a spread of generations. Suddenly, the owners - a car park company - decided to introduce order. Guards with assault rifles patrolled the area, fences blocked every entrance. New rules were pasted up: no dogs, no food to be consumed, no ball games, no unsupervised children, no treading on the grass, no skating. Los Angeles Platz is a bit tidier but dead.

The fate of this square, a relatively trivial issue, fills me with apprehension about a far more important piece of Berlin real estate: 23,800 sq yards south of the Brandenburg Gate that has been earmarked by Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, to be the site of the Holocaust memorial. The idea is worthy. In the future political heart of Germany's capital, at a time when Germany will undoubtedly be the driving force of an increasingly integrated Europe, there will be a huge, awkward memorial to the crimes of its past. Other capitals have statues to national heroes and poets; Berlin will commemorate the genocide that was plotted and supervised by the leaders of the Third Reich. Bonn has no such memorial, because its provisional nature was testimony enough to its status as the loser of the Second World War.

Berliners are tempted to make a direct connection between their glorious Prussian past and their glowing European future, sidestepping the tricky bits. The Holocaust memorial will fill the gap. Indeed, bulldozers preparing the ground for the memorial have just unearthed the family bunker of Joseph Goebbels, the propaganda chief: a reminder that some of the most evil politicians of this century once inhabited the hub of the city. My worry is that the Holocaust memorial will go the way of little Los Angeles Platz: that it will be guarded day and night by snarling dogs, that searchlights will be beamed on the sculptures.

Seen from the side, the stones resemble a little the old Jewish cemetery in Prague. From above, it looks like an archaeological excavation. A decision probably in favour of this design will be made in the coming days. There is still, however, no real agreement on the memorial: is it art or is it politics? Will it stir memories - or seal them up? More than 500 designs were submitted and none quite hit the nerve. Perhaps the most valuable part of the selection process has been the long public discussion about the meaning of the Holocaust. If that could continue endlessly there would be no need to build anything in stone.

Resiting of capital isolates Karadzic

FROM TOM WALKER IN BANJA LUKA

THE new Bosnian Serb Government voted to move its capital to Banja Luka, severing links with Pale, the former Olympic ski village and headquarters of the hardline regime of Radovan Karadzic, who is wanted for war crimes. With a show of hands on Saturday, the biggest sea-change in Bosnian politics since the Dayton peace process began. At the parliament's first sitting in Banja Luka, the largest town in Serb-held Bosnia, an alliance of moderate Bosnian Serbs joined forces with radicals and Muslims to form a comfortable majority over Dr Karadzic's dwindling clique.

This Government has the strength and the authority of experts, and we know the best way to ensure peace in this area," Milorad Dodik, the Prime Minister, said. Mr Dodik is the West's new darling in Bosnia, and his rise has paved the way for international funding for Republika Srpska. In the past the intransigence of Dr Karadzic ensured that the republic received less than 5 per cent of overall aid to Bosnia. Republika Srpska is now looking more like a rational entity. Where previously sheep grazed outside ministries, the republic now boasts a capital of some style. But the hardliners, whose vision of the republic is as a bastion to protect the Serb tribe from Muslim hordes, are unrepentant. Miroslav Vjesica, a Karadzic loyalist, dismissed Mr Dodik as a criminal and predicted the return of the hardliners to power in elections scheduled for September. A bomb damaged the home of a wealthy supporter of Montenegro's reformist President Djukanovic, police said. (AFP)



Russian trucks clear snow from Red Square yesterday after Moscow was hit by a sudden heavy snowfall. The temperature before the weekend was 3F (-16C)

Pope calls in to see Roman family

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Pope made his first pastoral visit to an ordinary Roman family yesterday. He is concerned about poor church attendance in Rome. Despite its proximity to the Vatican, the city has a strong secular tradition. Most baptisms, weddings and funerals are Roman Catholic, but less than a quarter of Rome's residents say they attend Mass regularly and fewer go to confession.

The Pope, 77, arguing that "indifference is worse than militant atheism", has ordered a Vatican programme of evangelisation under which volunteer teams of church members will deliver a copy of the Gospels to every Rome household by the millennium.

Yesterday the Pope spent half an hour with Giuseppe Manago, 67, a retired shopkeeper, and his extended family at their flat near the Vatican and handed out copies of the Acts of the Apostles. Although the papal visit had been well prepared, Signor Manago appeared overwhelmed. He said he was a regular churchgoer, but subject to doubts and had no idea why he had been chosen. Don Roberto Zambolin, the parish priest, said it was because the Managos were "an archetypically Italian family".

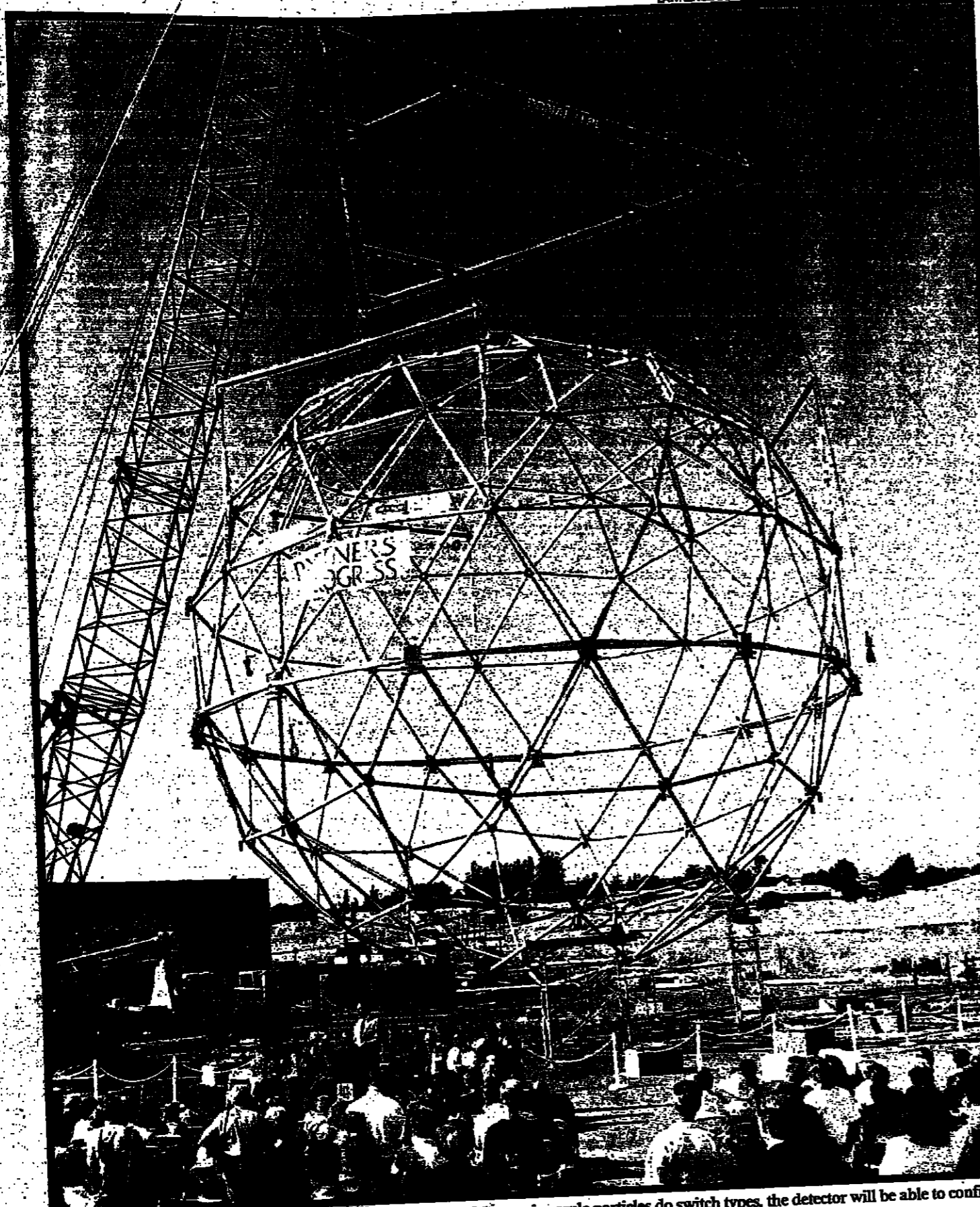
Photograph, page 24

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سكوا من الاصل

The case of the missing mass

Physicists are hoping to find the neutrino, which may hold the key to one of the Universe's enduring puzzles — why the cosmos isn't as massive as it should be. Anjana Ahuja reports



The geodesic frame for the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory. If these minuscule particles do switch types, the detector will be able to confirm it

While you read this sentence, a billion neutrinos will have passed through your body. You will not have felt these fundamental particles — they carry no charge and very little, if any, mass. This makes them fiendishly difficult to detect. And, as in Hollywood, the more elusive the star, the more eagerly she is pursued. This is why scientists are chasing the neutrino (Italian for "little neutral one") with such fervour. A fresh chapter in the hunt will begin this spring, when an underground detector down a Canadian nickel mine goes into action.

The neutrino may hold the key to one of the most enduring puzzles of the Universe — the "missing mass" conundrum. The accepted model of the Universe decrees that, given the current rate of expansion, the Universe should be of a certain mass.

The problem is that astronomers cannot find all of it. The visible cosmos, in which matter is clustered in galaxies, makes up barely 10 per cent. Astronomers reason that the remainder must either be locked up somewhere out of sight — or the model of the Universe is terribly wrong. The answer, it has been suggested, could be lying right under our noses — even if neutrinos carried only a tiny mass, their abundance might make up a great deal of the shortfall. No wonder, then, that many physicists are convinced that whoever discovers whether or not neutrinos have mass is guaranteed a Nobel prize.

The problem lies in catching these shy, elusive particles; if a neutrino were to pass through a ball of lead the size of a small galaxy, it would have only a 50 per cent chance of being ensnared.

The detector, called the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory (SNO), about 200 miles north of Toronto, could also shed light on the closely allied solar neutrino problem, which relates to our own Sun. The nuclear fusion process in the Sun's core is supposed to produce neutrinos aplenty, trillions of which should be shooting through Earth every second. Scientists have figured out the fraction they can reasonably expect to observe, but experiments reveal that up to 75 per

cent of the neutrinos they expect to spot simply are not showing up. There are two explanations, according to Art McDonald, Professor of Physics at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, and SNO's director: "Either the Sun is producing fewer than we think, or the neutrinos are changing as they travel from the Sun to us, and therefore cannot be detected."

Although Professor McDonald refuses to state which scenario he believes is at work, the smart money appears to be on the changing-neutrino option. "Physicists have not found a solar process that would explain the discrepancy," he says. "We have to wait for

are underground, to ensure that cosmic rays and other radiation do not penetrate the experiments. SNO is slightly more discriminating — it can measure the flux of electron neutrinos, and the total neutrino flux.

Why is this crucial? The Sun produces only electron neutrinos, so picking up evidence of the other two, non-electron types, will confirm the switching. Provided that the moon and tau neutrinos can make up the shortfall, the solar neutrino problem will have been solved.

For the missing mass puzzle, the crucial revelation will be whether neutrinos can switch flavours. For, according to well-established laws of physics, it is impossible for a neutrino to switch flavours without having mass.

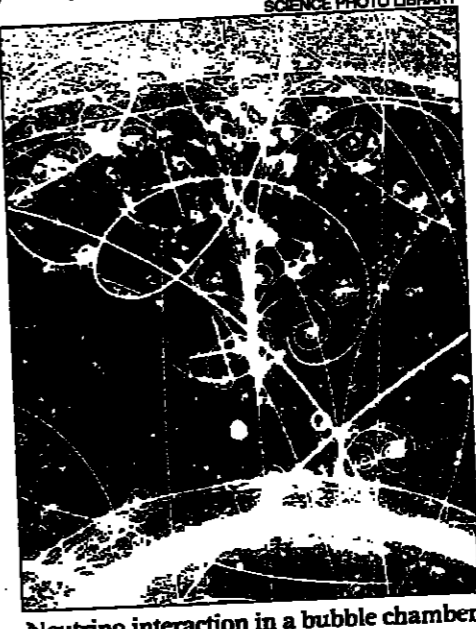
SNO's sophistication comes from the use of heavy water, in which the hydrogen atoms, which normally have one proton and one electron each, have an extra neutron in the nucleus. The extra neutrons add bulk, cutting the chances that the neutrino will slip through.

When the neutrino hits one of these heavy hydrogen atoms, it sends an electron hurtling through the water. The escaped electron gives off a characteristic glow Cerenkov radiation, which can be captured using one of 10,000 light detectors surrounding the vat of water.

A thousand tons of heavy water — worth about £330 million (£130 million) and loan from the AECL, Canada's atomic energy authority — is being poured in the tank over the next three months. It should be set up to observe about 20 events per day, a minuscule fraction of those that will traverse the detector.

The events will be monitored by more than 100 people working round the clock in three shifts. Canada, America and Britain have borne the £372 million construction costs — scientists from Oxford University helped to design the observatory. Participants expect initial results within a year.

Will SNO deliver the goods? "SNO has the capability of solving the solar neutrino problem," Professor McDonald says. "It's the only detector that can discriminate between types of neutrino. So yes we are very excited."



Neutrino interaction in a bubble chamber

□ Blinkers on the sun □ Alcoholic plants □ Immune hopes

A solar sickness

A BRITISH instrument in space has revealed that the surface of the Sun is dotted with smaller eruptions, crumpling sporadically like a solar disease. At any time up to 3,000 of these "blinkers" are taking place, says Dr Richard Harrison of Rutherford Appleton Laboratory at Chilton, in Oxfordshire. They last about ten minutes, and the largest cover an area as big as Earth.

They have never been seen before because only with the launch of the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (Soho) has there been an instrument with the resolution to detect them. Soho, a co-operation between the European Space Agency and its American counterpart, Nasa, was launched in December 1995. The blinkers have been detected using a Soho instrument, the Coronal Diagnostic Spectrometer. It was designed at RAL and has been used by 30 institutes in 12 countries since the satellite became operational in April 1996. Dr Harrison, who led the team

responsible, believes the new observations may help to explain some of the mysteries of the Sun. The blinkers are vast by terrestrial standards but much smaller events than solar flares. However, they occur continuously, all over the solar surface. Dr Harrison says they represent the interaction between the turbulent magnetic field of the Sun and the charged particles that make up its surface layers. "It's like looking at a

pan of boiling water," he says. "You can see turbulence caused by the convection cells, where heat is being carried to the surface. In the Sun, as gases rise into the turbulent layer they carry the magnetic fields with them, which can cause accelerations of the particles there. We can't actually see the material moving, but we can see these explosions. They each carry only about a millionth of the energy of a solar flare, but

they are happening all the time and there are lots of them. Each blinker generates 20 million megawatts, equal to 200 billion 100 watt light bulbs. Dr Harrison hopes they may help to explain one of the Sun's greatest mysteries — why it is that the corona, the thin outer region of the Sun, is heated to more than one million degrees centigrade while its surface is a mere 5,500C. Since the source of heat is the thermonuclear reactions taking place in the Sun itself, the paradox is that the temperatures become higher the further you are from the source of heat — exactly the opposite of what would be expected.

The blinkers represent sites where plasma is being heated, or particles accelerated. If so, they may explain the very high temperature of the corona where particles are thinly spread but extremely hot. "It is logical to think this process could be driving the heating of the corona," says Dr Harrison.



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

Plants take to the hard stuff

PLANTS with a taste for alcohol have been developed by scientists at Liverpool University and Zeneca Agrochemicals. When sprayed with the weakest cocktail, the plants switch on particular genes. The process could be used to persuade a field of oilseed rape to flower at the same moment, or to time the flowering of plants to suit market conditions. Dr Brian Tomsett, of Liverpool University, says

the system was developed for academic use. "This could be a good way of identifying the function of unknown genes," he says. To create the plants, the team took a gene from a fungus, *Aspergillus nidulans*, which is known to be sensitive to alcohol. Linked to the gene you want to control and inserted into plants, it acts as a switch that is turned on whenever the plant is exposed to alcohol and switched off again when it is not. One part of a thousand of alcohol is sufficient to flip the switch. Dr Tomsett says, "Other systems exist for switching on genes, but they are not suitable for use in the fields."

Keeping a donated liver

ORGAN transplantation is a success, but recipients must take drugs to suppress their immune systems and prevent rejection. Now some experiments at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Centre have demonstrated a simpler approach. Using rodents, Dr Abraham Shaked and colleagues were able to alter the signals that enable the immune system to recognise the liver as foreign. Livers are first

stored in a preservative fluid before being used for transplant. To this fluid the team added a virus to which had been attached the gene that codes for a protein called CTLA4G. The function of this protein is to block the signal that activates the cells of the immune system. The virus carried the gene into the liver cells, making them express the protein. The result, the team reports in *Nature Medicine*, was that the liver was accepted without the need for immune-suppressing drugs. Dr Shaked says: "We were able to block the immune system with a single treatment that obviated the need for follow-up drug therapy."

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TOMORROW
An update on Dorah Mokoena, the three-year-old child who risks losing her eyes

Uptown style cut to flatter

American designers offer women clothes that are body conscious and affordable, says Style Editor Grace Bradberry



We might dream of making the grand fashion gesture, but stand in front of a mirror and the vision tends to shrink. Does the neckline emphasise my wrinkles? Is the hem too high? How wide is wide-legged? Find your inner child, and she will be living in a loft, wearing clothes that make her hips look narrow. Donna Karan, who knows all about inner children, discovered this years ago. Among her many talents is the ability to deliver slick, sleek clothes that ride roughshod over the bumpy bits.

Thank heaven for one corner of the globe where originality comes second to the craft of flattering a woman's figure — New York, home of the slim grey trouser suit, the sleek black dress and the perfect pair of trainers. Concept-led it is not, but the more mistakes one makes the more seductive this kind of sharp neutrality becomes. Calvin Klein, who creates sparse, body-conscious clothes, is a master of this effortless chic.

Above all else, American designers want us to buy. It is hard to imagine a European *crétur* setting out with the style credo that fired Marie-Anne Oudejans, the Dutch-born designer behind Tocca. Her aim, in the early Nineties, was "to make something between designer and cheap, for people who want to buy things that are affordable but look nice, because not everybody has a lot of money at the moment". Her first collection was bought by Joseph for his London stores, and she now has boutiques of her own in New York and Tokyo.

Tocca is pretty yet metropolitan, a little bit frivolous but also functional. It began not at fashion college but in photographic studios, where Oudejans, then assisting fashion editors, began sewing to while away the time. Her first customers were models, who still wear the line in their private lives — Kate Moss, Naomi Campbell and Claudia Schiffer have all been seen in Tocca's distinctive dresses.

Oudejans's original concept was to create a line of several different dresses that would change in colour and fabric from season to season. The collection now includes knits, jewellery and bags; the embroidered fabrics have been much copied, but the winning formula is essentially the same.

While the Tocca label is for uptown girls, Daryl Kerrigan, another much talked-about designer, is firmly downtown. In partnership with Paul Leonard (like her, a Dubliner) the 33-year-old opened a shop in New York's East Village in 1991. Daryl K trousers — utilitarian but with a hip, retro edge — became cult items with the fashion and music crowd. They still are because whether bootleg, straightleg, sailor or drawstring, they are cut to flatter. Along with these basics were club-based clothes, including Neoprene miniskirts with matching bikini bottoms.

The collection for spring 1998 was shown in an empty swimming pool on New York's Lower East Side. The clothes harked back to punk, with rucking, slashed necks and frayed knit dresses. If you want a cotton drill shirt that is basic but subtly right, this is the label for you.

Above: Navy and white striped shirt, £100. Indigo sparkle jeans, £130, both by Daryl K, available at Browns, 23-27 South Molton Street, London W1. Tel: 0171-493 1330. Silver leather boots, £375, by Gina, 189 Sloane Street, London SW1. Tel: 0171-235 6007.

Centre: Orange and brown silk striped dress, £125. Orange silk cardigan, £75, both by Tocca, available at Harvey Nichols, 109-125 Knightsbridge, London SW1. Tel: 0171-235 5000.

Right: Black jersey dress with crape detail, £350, by DKNY, the Donna Karan diffusion line, at DKNY 27 Old Bond Street, London W1. Tel: 0171-499 8089. Silver and black trainers, £79, by DKNY at Russell & Bromley, 24-25 New Bond Street, London W1. Tel: 0171-629 6503. Grey shopper, £160, by

Patrick Cox, 8 Symons Street, London SW3. Tel: 0171-730 6504.

Far right: Grey single breasted wool jacket, £280, and matching trousers, £145. Bright pink long-sleeved T-shirt, £75. All by CK, the diffusion line of Calvin Klein, at CK, New Bond Street, London W1. Tel: 0171-491 9696. Pink sneaker sandals, £145, by Patrick Cox, details as before.

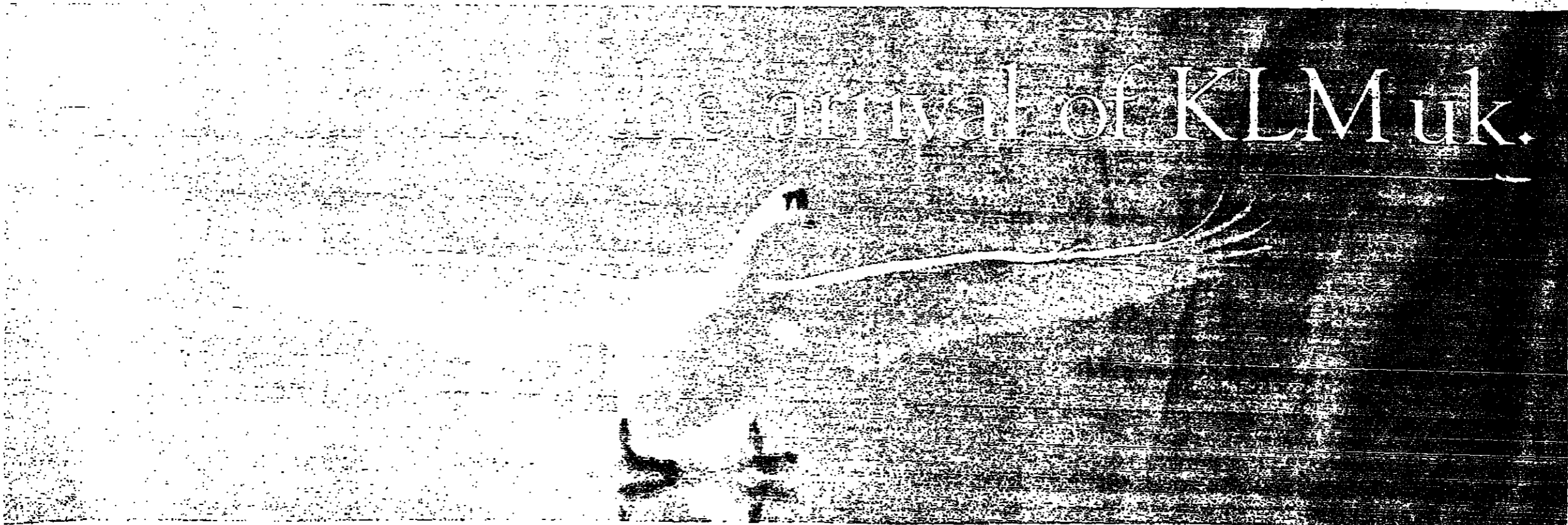
Photographer: LUCY FITTER

Stylist: Nicola Goldie

Hair: Raphael Salley at Michaeljohn Management

Make-up: Jochen Fuchs at Michaeljohn Management

Model: Anita at Select



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The power generation

Never before have thirtysomethings had so much clout. Television is obsessed with them, they dominate the bestseller list, they set precedents in politics. Tina Gaudoin explains why her age group matters and famous thirtysomethings describe what it means to them.

We all know that the fictional singleton Bridget Jones cannot really be thirtysomething. If she were, she would not possess the time, energy or inclination to worry constantly about her caloric or cigarette intake, neither would her married taste buds allow her that thirtysomething predilection for drinking "instant".

And anyway, in the unlikely event that she indulged in either of the above beyond the age of 30, her short-term memory would be so shot (by the effects of work, child-rearing or both) that she would be unable to remember what the hell she'd consumed by the end of the day.

I am not suggesting that in your thirties you are already on the brink of dementia, with spittle drooling from your lips as you sip Colombian roasted double decaf (well, not before 9pm anyway). It's just that, at the risk of sounding all new-agey, when you get past the three-decade mark, you suddenly find yourself in what seems to be your "defining" decade, with limited time and energy and some pretty fundamental life choices to make.

Of course, your thirties are what your twenties have been a dress rehearsal for. All that exhausting scrambling up the corporate pyramid, all those mind-numbing nights out trying to up your cool factor, increase your social circle and determine whose gene pool you want to dip into, suddenly crystallise into some form of reality. If your twenties were about yearning, striving and a vision for the future, your thirties are about consolidating your position, about coming good, about becoming comfortable. Or, as a friend of mine puts it: "Your thirties are about how great life can really be, before you hit 40 and realise your job sucks, your marriage is dysfunctional and you're going to die."

There is a self-assurance about the '30s decade that comes, some might say, of independent money-earners - of seeing our proverbial oats of changing and forming our opinions - and of making our mistakes.

By the time we get to our thirties we feel better equipped to say: "I don't care" and mean it, argue the toss at dinner



"Your thirties are about how great life can really be, before you hit 40 and realise your job sucks, your marriage is a nightmare, your kids are dysfunctional and you're going to die"

parties, and enjoy it; to stay at home on Saturday nights and not feel like losers; to listen unabashedly to Radio 4 and nothing else; to feel justified in spending our money on a new car or a £500 jacket and to regard it as an investment; to recognise that nothing retards the ageing process (except the knife) but to spend ridiculous amounts on face cream anyway. And above all (take note, Bridget Jones) to acknowledge that diets really don't work.

The fourth decade could also be subtitled "make your mind up time". Take babies, for example. If you are a middle-class careerist couple (married or not), it is unlikely that you will consider procreation before your late twenties, and by the time you have made up your mind (the thirtysomething generation is notoriously indecisive) you will have cancelled past 35 with your follicle-conserving eggs and sperm still on board. At this point you will be looking at indulging in some pretty rapid conception over a seriously short space of time.

The answer to the question of what takes us thirtysomethings so long to start a family is the key to everything that is great and exhausting about our thirties. For a start, we feel like the chosen, invincible generation. (Whether or not we are is a matter of debate.) The first section of society to have been born during the 1950s and 60s into a world of abortion and contraceptive choice. As women, we are the first generation to have been able to postpone childbearing (for better or worse) actively, in favour of our careers, our interests or our own beliefs.

Increasing numbers of thirtysomethings are choosing not to have children. And for our male thirtysomething counterparts, it is finally acceptable to remain bachelors, see Gordon Brown and George Clooney. We don't look too bad either.

Increased awareness of the benefits of good diet, vitamins and the all-pervading gym and keep-fit culture means that, if we try, we can extend that "late twenties" look well into our thirties (see Madonna, Alex Kingston, Anthea Turner).

All this is, of course, helped along by the fact that, as women, we feel increasingly

justified in spending on "up-keep" - that very American concept which means forking out for blow dries, manicures, facials and manicures, rather than as an extraordinary treat.

Sure, expanding all this energy on maintenance could be construed as a manifestation of Darwinist urge to survive and procreate - particularly in view of the fact that many thirtysomethings do not meet and marry until that decade. But any way you look at it, all adds up to the premise that as a generation we feel unassailable (well, for a while at least).

Biological implications aside, one of the biggest problems for most thirtysomethings once they "couple" is having the willpower to give up their freewheeling, comfortable, comforting existence to introduce the chaos and self-sacrifice that having children brings.

If that sounds cold and calculating, consider that we are suddenly the power generation where marketers are concerned. We "consume" on the wherewithal to do so - pop music, travel, art, movies, clothes, cars, food, drink, beauty and health - you name it, not only have these products got thirtysomething written all over them, but chances are they will have been created by hordes of industrious thirtysomethings all employed to come up with the Next Big Thing (think Diet Coke, Roller Blades, Land Rover, Prada bags and Millbank Tower). This consumption does not, of course, stop when babies are born, it merely takes a different turn - see Baby Gap.

But it is when we actually reach the child-rearing bit that we thirtysomethings really come under the gun. Having spent years rationalising the benefits of a single, child-free life, when we become preg-

nant we immediately try to become the ultimate parents-in-training.

The imminent birth is regarded with the sceptical inevitability of a successful hostile takeover - contingency plans are made, obstetricians are interviewed (yes, interviewed), hospitals chosen, classes attended, maternity nurses booked and baby products consumed like Smarties. What have we been working, attaining, saving and training for, if it was not for a moment such as this, when all of our thirtysomething skills could come into play?

The irony is that nothing can prepare us for thirtysomething control freaks for child-rearing - no amount of books, educational achievement or money can save us from the reality of the exhaustion, distraction and sheer joy that is mid-life parenting. The feeling of invincibility does not wear off right away - which is why so many of us women are intent on trying to return to our pre-child thirtysomething status.

We reason that we still need to achieve (and earn), and we return to work swiftly post-birth in an attempt to impose order upon the chaos that is parenthood.

But what saves us "have-it-all" thirtysomethings - male and female - from ourselves is the recognition of our own fallibility; the awful, incredible truth that dawns when, post-procreation, we understand that what we have created something that will finally and for ever be more important than we are. We might have been there, seen it, done it and bought the T-shirt - but, redeemed by our love for our children, we thirtysomethings will never truly be masters of the universe.

Tina Gaudoin is Editor of Frank, a magazine for thirtysomethings

"You have more self-awareness and confidence, and you stop trying to be something and someone. You can say 'This is me', which is a relief. But it can induce bouts of panic because you may not have achieved as much as you wanted. And as you get older, it can get harder to find someone who can contribute and add richness to your life. I am happy on my own"

MARIELLA FROSTRUP, 35

What is nice is the fact that you find yourself professionally and personally after all the turbulence of being in your twenties. I am a lot calmer and not in the gossip columns. I don't go out and party any more - it just doesn't appeal. If I'm not working, then I'm at home with my wife and children. My life wasn't real in my twenties. I was difficult and lacked understanding and experience

MARCO PIERRE WHITE, 37

"I'll tell you a strange thing. My best friend, who is my boyfriend's mother, is 55. My boyfriend is 25. I get on much better with older and younger people. I have a real problem with thirtysomething people my own age. I find them boring and narcissistic in a self-loathing way. They seem dismayed, as if they have never got what they wanted. I want no part of living a conventional, thirtysomething life"

JULIE BURCHILL, 38

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Of games of two halves and three acts

If you were to speak of spectacle, powerful emotions, wild passions and extreme characters, then some would think you were talking about opera. Others would know for certain you were discussing football.

Doubtless we are so finely nuanced in the neurons that the mind has no difficulty in compartmentalising distinctions of appreciation. This siver for theatre, that for eating an apple, this for opera, that for football, overlapping but each with its peculiar properties.

We have a hierarchy, many of us, in the ordering of our appreciation of things. Opera, especially Grand Opera and most especially Grand Opera in magnificent surroundings, is often thought of as top of the tree, closely followed perhaps by classical ballet. To a different generation of course, a rock concert would eclipse both. Nevertheless, let us keep some parameters here and take Grand Opera and football.

It is worth looking at what is

delivered by football and what is delivered by opera. I think, to see why for so many arbiters of taste they would be thought to be fundamentally different in kind.

It is worth starting with the obvious. In terms of story, each has a plus and a minus. In opera, you already know the story — often an exceedingly silly one. Narrative suspense is wholly lacking. In football, although the characters are known, many of the moves can be predicted and certain constraints are unchangeable — the length of the play for instance, and the number of the players — the narrative is open. And not only do you not know the ending, save in the most one-sided of games, you cannot accurately predict what will happen from minute to minute. As a narrative, football leaves opera for dead.

On the other hand, opera has

music, and music adds a dimension whose power is incalculable. It now seems that it penetrates parts of the brain impervious to other messages and there is clearly no contest against the noises, even when they resemble songs, made at football matches.

Yet football's noises are not to be undervalued. I am not talking about the chants or the occasional cheering, but of the constant drone of conversation, like the background bass in Russian choral music: the ceaseless sound of dialogues between supporters and players, supporters and other supporters, supporters and other supporters. The intensity of this continuous murmur is a sound feature of football — more in the sphere of John Cage than Mozart. I admit — whose quality has not been fully studied.

For spectacle in its narrower



sense — pleasing the eye, presenting stunning pictures — the gorgeous opera world seems to win outright again. Yet within the parameters of the football pitch there is also a great spectacle.

Twenty-two men in ancient costumes manoeuvring and running in intricate patterns in a limited space, now rapidly, now languidly, punctuated here with a blazing shot and there with a foul deed; solos and duets and full chorus alternating swiftly. We may be more in the world of ballet than opera here, but the word 'operatic' would not be out of place when, say, Arsenal's Dennis Bergkamp brings to a perfect conclusion a perfect move which started 100 yards away with the faithful left boot of Nigel Winterburn.

We can claim high notes for both opera and football. The goal hit by Steven Hughes for Arsenal in the Coca-Cola Cup match against Chelsea last week had an equal effect on the feelings as Pavarotti climbing up *Nessun dorma*. Which neuroscientist is going to tell us that the release, the shock of

delight of the one is superior to the other, and how can it be proved? Take beauty. Opera buffs rightly rhapsodise over the beauty and accuracy of Joan Sutherland's voice. Are the rhapsodies of Arsenal fans over the accuracy of Bergkamp's passing of a lower order? Perhaps the opera lobby will claim wider emotional range.

There is a distinction here, though. At an opera I admire the emotional range before me and am swept up, with luck, in the enactment of it. At football, I am an active participant. I can hate a referee who, say, completely fails to take any notice of the fact that Bergkamp is being tugged and pulled by a lumpy defender, Halted on that scale is foreign in opera, or it is acted out for me on the stage. But as for the exhilaration of observing class, are

the neurons applauding a brilliant overhead kick inferior to those applauding a tricky aria well-expressed?

You can speak of catharsis in art, but in sport it assuredly exists also. Aristotle would have been quite at home at Arsenal. For those who wish to contemplate the extremes of human nature at football, read Nick Hornby or Tony Harrison or, best of all, go to a game — and Tosca will be put in perspective.

Opera lives on in the mind? True — but so do great games of football. Opera stimulates the audience to thoughts on life? Thoughts on life come thick and fast at Highbury.

Of course it is possible to enjoy both, and some do. But it would be fascinating were those engaged in studying the brain to give us some indication of whether it is possible or will be possible to distinguish — as socially we have done for so long — between the spectacle of Covent Garden and the spectacle of Highbury.

'This could be the death of music'

The conductor Sir Simon Rattle believes that the Government's proposed school curriculum changes will be disastrous, as he tells Richard Morrison

From the sublime to the ridiculous. Two weeks ago Sir Simon Rattle was conducting the Vienna Philharmonic, the very pinnacle of the musical mountain. He then flew home to find a crisis at the very roots of British music: the Government's proposal to remove music from the curriculum of primary schools.

Rattle was outraged. Only six years ago he led the fight to get the music curriculum established. Now, he found that it had been binned by David Blunkett, the Education Secretary. Rattle fired off a steaming letter to *The Times*, but a week later his anger has not abated. "Why aren't more musicians protesting, Ed?" he asked Ed Smith, the manager of his City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Smith

replied: "They don't think anybody will take any notice." So Rattle has again mounted his white charger on behalf of the art form that he has done so much to popularise. "This threat to music in state schools is desperate," he says. "We are looking at a whole art form being sidelined. I work a lot in America, where it is like that already — regarded as completely unimportant, marginalised. Britain could go that way. I'm talking about the possible death of music."

Scare-mongering? Rattle doesn't think so. He regards Blunkett's assurance that primary teachers will still be expected to "have regard" for music as meaningless and risible. What's more, he believes that the dropping of music from the primary curriculum will compound the

damage caused by the widespread cuts in peripatetic music teaching.

"The time when children really come to terms with art and music is between the ages of five and eleven. As it happens, the massive drop in children learning instruments is entirely in that age range. It's not surprising when you think about it, because the biggest music-teaching cuts came about six years ago. That was the period when a county such as Derbyshire, for instance, simply sacked all its instrumental teachers at a stroke."

According to Rattle, this disregard for music at primary level is already threatening Britain's youth orchestras, once world-beating, and will soon diminish our professional musical life. "Even very



School's out: music isn't elitist, but it needs to be taught just as a foreign language is, says Sir Simon Rattle. And the teaching must start early

intelligent politicians don't seem to grasp the long-term effects," he says. "I remember in the mid-1980s being called in by Sir Keith Joseph because he was worried about Britain not producing enough world-class soloists. He wanted to know which music college to

back. I told him that we had to concentrate on music in primary schools. He clearly regarded this as the "wrong answer". He was incapable of seeing that you must start with very young children if you are going to produce great musicians.

"And that holds good right across the spectrum, from pop to classical. The opportunities must not be just for people who can pay for it. All the figures show that middle-class kids are still basically getting taught instruments, but the working-class ones aren't. Well, what a surprise! I know come from working-class backgrounds. We will lose all that talent."

There is another argument, Rattle says, which is just as

powerful. Music vastly improves learning in other subjects. "We are seeing music education cut at the very time when incontrovertible scientific evidence is proving that the more rigorously music is taught, the better the results in mathematics and languages. Results improve by 40 per cent in some cases.

"Learning is not a straight-line process. You don't improve reading and mathematical skills simply by throwing more hours at them. Only politicians think that. What's more, music is a communal thing; it has inestimable social benefits. We have seen so often how difficult kids come out of themselves in response to music."

Unfortunately for Rattle and other concerned musicians,

the teaching profession has mostly welcomed Blunkett's proposal. "But that's because all the teachers I know are incredibly overworked, underpaid and overstressed. They are permanently exhausted, and their reaction is pure relief that the curriculum has been cut."

Rattle believes that we are facing a simultaneous threat: not only the demise of music education, but also the "end of subsidy" for the arts. He blames a Government which has "a fear of anything that could be considered high culture". He illustrates his point with a telling anecdote. "To entertain delegates to the G8 Summit in Birmingham this May, the request came through for Jools Holland, Eric Clapton, Sting, Evelyn

Glemie and Nigel Kennedy... but we'd like Nige to play with Eric Clapton." The message was: please don't play any classical music, because that would convey the wrong image. That's tragic. It's one of this country's great success stories."

Rattle bristles at the implication that classical music is elitist. "It isn't, but it does have to be taught. Nobody says learning French or German is elitist, but you have to be taught them; you aren't born speaking them."

"It's tremendously arrogant to say that great music will never be part of most people's lives. But if you make it a self-fulfilling prophecy, by removing it from the school curriculum, it will become elitist."

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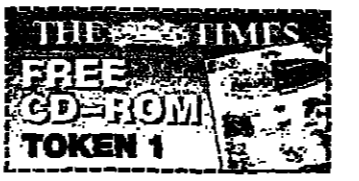
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Dropped baton little handicap

SONGS to jeer by and hauling songs for towpath-walking rang out from the strings of the English Chamber Orchestra at the beginning and end of an imaginative and conductorless programme.

The first came from the four volumes of Hungarian and Slovak folk songs Bartók recreated *For Children*; the second was embedded in the ECO in Rudolf Maros's transcription for string orchestra: simple echo phrases, mischievously overlapping entries, ballads heavy with Hungarian verbal inflection, all tested the listening power, alertness and imagination of the strings. Taking their cue from the energetic leadership of Stephanie Gonyea, the ECO clearly enjoyed their democratic freedoms, although their cross-accenting in the *Jeering Song* could have dared just a little more.

The Tchaikovsky was marked by an unusually spirited, high-fibre waltz, and some particularly fine part-singing from the violins before the finale's song turned to dance. The *Serenade* had been preceded by a lush performance of the *Nocturne* from

CONCERT

Borodin's String Quartet No. 2, vibrant with the intense listening necessitated by the lack of a conductor.

The presence of a baton as robust finale of Tchaikovsky's *Serenade for Strings*.

The Bartók — originally for piano — was played by the ECO in Rudolf Maros's transcription for string orchestra: simple echo phrases, mischievously overlapping entries, ballads heavy with Hungarian verbal inflection, all tested the listening power, alertness and imagination of the strings. Taking their cue from the energetic leadership of Stephanie Gonyea, the ECO clearly enjoyed their democratic freedoms, although their cross-accenting in the *Jeering Song* could have dared just a little more.

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Magic Flute

Mozart

CHANGING TIMES

سكذامن الاحول

In a blues funk

ACCORDING to the man himself, G. Love and his Special Sauce have "dealt with the whole nine yards as far as rock'n'roll is concerned" since they convened in a Boston bar in 1993.

POP

of a high stool, an antique electric guitar balanced on his hip and a harmonica rack strapped around his neck. As they set off at an easy, ramshackle stroll with Crazy Logic, his legs pounded out the time, both swinging loosely from side to side like the bottom half of a ventriloquist's dummy.

DAVID SINCLAIR



Zoot Lynam and Victoria Shalet in Fairytaleheart, "a primer for teachers wanting to start a class discussion about the meaning of metaphor"

Lessons worth swatting

The latest contribution to Hampstead Theatre's New Directions season is not aimed at me, which is just as well, for I figured more and presumably enjoyed it less than the 10-year-olds behind me. But I suspect that, were I still a child, I would find Zoot Lynam's play, which takes its title about imagination, far less congenial than say, More Grimm Tales at the Young Vic, which actually displays its fairytaleheart does not come across as a piece of drama at all, rather as a primer for teachers wanting to start a class discussion about the meaning of metaphor, fairytale and so on.

Two teenagers meet in a disused community hall somewhere inside a sink housing estate. He is a cheerful middle-aged bearded dreadlocks and colourfully slovenly dress. She wears a spangled top because, as it turns out, she has run away from her own birthday party, angry that her widowed father plans to announce his engagement to his lady. He is the stepson of the estate's new caretaker, and as happy with his domestic situation as with an existence that before now has consisted of living in a squat, a rave-party warehouse, and a caravan parked beneath a flyover.

most irritating characters I have met on any stage, ever? The latter, I fear. Not only has an unsettled boyhood left him a) totally unscarred and b) apt to launch into rapturous passages to stars and snow. He also takes it on himself to instruct poor, bolshevik Kirsty in the way that stories can help you "experience what's really in your heart" and "make sense of things" so that you do better in "life's journey".

A pearl or two in the sexual pattern

being preoccupied with unfortunate deaths she is also humorously humorous. In fact, she does not grasp how weird her worldly ignorance is. Cliff can even make her accept that he uses the crowbar he carries around in his pick-up truck to kill crows.

Magic lost and found

STRANGE, but true, that an important work by one of the best-loved 19th-century composers should not have reached London until this weekend. Tchaikovsky's "lost" opera The Enchantress, perhaps the most unjustly neglected of all his underrated works for the lyric stage, has never entered the repertoire even in Russia, but the heart-warming reception given this brilliant Royal Opera concert presentation will surely mark a turn in its fortunes.

This week in THE TIMES



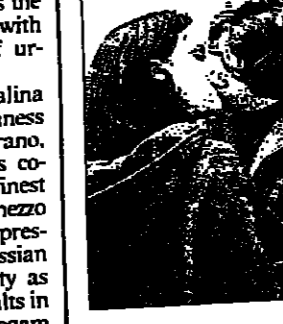
DANCE
Flamenco fever returns as Campanas Flamencas opens at the Peacock
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



OPERA
A production of Così fan tutte launches Scottish Opera's year in Glasgow
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Monday



THEATRE
The European premiere of David Mamet's Lakeboat is at the Lyric Studio
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Monday



FILM
Wife-swapping puts a marriage under strain in The Ice Storm
RELEASED: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

PLUS: Vapour 88 launches a tour of UK independent dance labels on Saturday

A large grid of theatre listings for various venues including Aldwych, Apollo, Gielgud, and others, listing plays, dates, and ticket prices.

Valentine's Day Love Classics advertisement for Campanas Flamencas, featuring a flamenco dancer and promotional text for a performance on Saturday 14 February.

OBITUARIES

ALAN CAMPBELL-JOHNSON



Alan Campbell-Johnson, CBE, author and public relations consultant, died on January 25 aged 84. He was born on July 16, 1913.

The doyen of his chosen calling, Alan Campbell-Johnson liked to be regarded as the father of public relations in this country.

Campbell-Johnson had been Mountbatten's press attaché and trusted confidant throughout the latter's tumultuous two years as the last Viceroy and first Governor-General of India.

Born in Chelsea, Alan Campbell-Johnson was the only child of Lieutenant-Colonel J.A. Campbell-Johnson, a member of one of Australia's oldest families.

to fight in the Boer War, then became a rising star on the Daily Mail, a friend of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and, at one time, the youngest lieutenant-colonel in the British Army in the First World War.

Alan, who was only five when his father died, won a scholarship from Westminster School to Christ Church, Oxford, to read history. A talent-

ed slow left-arm bowler, he played cricket for the first XI at both Westminster and Christ Church and was later a playing member of the MCC.

It was called Growing Opinions (1935) and was based on interviews with 16 of his contemporaries. He wrote it

after attending the notorious 1933 debate at the Oxford Union in which the vote went in favour of not fighting for King and country.

His career was interrupted, however, by another summons from Mountbatten. Having just accepted the Vice-royalty of India with complete plenipotentiary powers, Mountbatten wanted Campbell-Johnson at his side as his press attaché. For two years

work with the London Press Exchange while writing his two successive biographies, first of Eden (1939) and then of Halifax (1941).

He volunteered for the RAF when war broke out, but failed to become a pilot.

When Mountbatten was made Supreme Commander in South-East Asia in the following year, he took Campbell-Johnson with him.

He stood as a Liberal for Salisbury and South Wiltshire in the 1945 general election but, with Labour making all the running, failed to make any dent on the Tory majority.

His career was interrupted, however, by another summons from Mountbatten. Having just accepted the Vice-royalty of India with complete plenipotentiary powers, Mountbatten wanted Campbell-Johnson at his side as his press attaché. For two years

Campbell-Johnson acted not only as press secretary but as Mountbatten's diarist, recording a blow-by-blow account of the negotiations over Indian partition and independence.

Campbell-Johnson made another unsuccessful attempt to enter the Commons for Salisbury at the 1950 general election — coming a bad third for the second time running.

When Mountbatten was made Supreme Commander in South-East Asia in the following year, he took Campbell-Johnson with him.

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JUNIOR WELLS



Junior Wells, blues harmonica player and vocalist, died of a heart attack after a battle with cancer in Chicago on January 15 aged 63. He was born in Memphis, Tennessee, on December 9, 1934.

theme song and initial hit, "I'm a Man". "It kinda hurt inside to know I had such a tune there and didn't know what I had or how to secure the damn thing," he said.

THE death of Junior Wells has robbed the blues world of one more of the dwindling number of Chicago musicians whose brand of electrified Delta blues changed popular music in the postwar years.

He started off as a rival for the blues harmonica crown with the temperamental star Little Walter, played with Muddy Waters and later enjoyed a long, fruitful partnership with the guitarist Buddy Guy.

He was still recording and performing a few months before his death, and enjoying the acclaim brought by his recent, Grammy-nominated album, Come on in This House.

He moved with his mother to Chicago in 1946, and was said to have walked out of a pawn shop with a two-dollar harmonica after leaving all the money he possessed on the counter.

In the mid-1960s, with the blues declining in popularity among the black population, he partnered Chicago guitarist Buddy Guy and was able to tap into an emerging blues and rock scene that would see the two perform at colleges, rock festivals and concert halls.

He moved with his mother to Chicago in 1946, and was said to have walked out of a pawn shop with a two-dollar harmonica after leaving all the money he possessed on the counter.

In later years, Wells was to claim that he had written and first performed Walter's sides shouted. "She moves". For a second the movement was not perceptible.

JOHN PULLAN

John Pullan, former senior surgeon at St Thomas' Hospital, died on January 4 aged 82. He was born on August 1, 1915.

WHEN John Pullan entered the Medical School at St Thomas' Hospital from Cambridge in 1937, he brought with him the reputation of a scholar of King's.

He was the owner of a hundred bespoke Savile Row suits, and his dapper figure was a familiar sight to staff and students alike as he did his rounds in the long corridors of St Thomas'.

Born in Yorkshire and educated at Shrewsbury, where he showed talent at boxing and

rowing, he qualified in 1940, choosing a career in surgery, then serving as house surgeon at St Thomas' at the height of the London Blitz, when the hospital was repeatedly hit.

After the worst of the bombings, he and Wendy Craven, Vetch, the daughter of a surgeon and a St Thomas' nurse at the time, chose to get married on an impulse, not expecting to survive the week.

Over a period of twenty years, Pullan organised and supervised a course of surgical studies for medical postgraduates at St Thomas'.

Pullan served for many years as an examiner in surgery at the Royal College of Surgeons and at the Universi-

ties of Cambridge and London. He was a quiet and modest man, thoughtful and thorough in all he undertook.

His career was interrupted, however, by another summons from Mountbatten. Having just accepted the Vice-royalty of India with complete plenipotentiary powers, Mountbatten wanted Campbell-Johnson at his side as his press attaché. For two years

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These qualities had a profound effect upon his juniors who regarded him as a friend as well as an example.

Over a period of twenty years, Pullan organised and supervised a course of surgical studies for medical postgraduates at St Thomas'.

Pullan served for many years as an examiner in surgery at the Royal College of Surgeons and at the Universi-



PROFESSOR ANDREW RUTHERFORD

Andrew Rutherford, CBE, Kipling scholar, died on January 23 aged 68. He was born on July 23, 1929.

ALTHOUGH Andrew Rutherford's teaching ranged widely across English literature, he will be particularly remembered for his studies of Kipling.

its worst", and hoped that the book would reveal Kipling as a great original writer.

In 1986 Rutherford produced a valuable addition to the Kipling canon, *Early Verse by Rudyard Kipling, 1879-1899*, in which he assembled from letters, newspapers and other sources some 300 mostly uncollected poems and fragments from the poets



school days and Indian years, and provided meticulous and exemplary annotation.

Boys' College, the University of Edinburgh and Merton College, Oxford. After National Service in the Seaforth Highlanders, he returned to Edinburgh as an assistant lecturer.

From 1977 to 1980 he was president of the International Association of University Professors of English. At the end

of this period, during the summer of Solidarity, he presided with great success over a highly successful triennial conference in Aberdeen.

In 1984 Rutherford succeeded Richard Hoggart as Warden of Goldsmith's College, where he completed the negotiations for its becoming a full college of London University.

unexamined prejudices" on many subjects: "Indian self-government, America, the destinies of the Anglo-Saxon race, Irish Home Rule, the Boers, the German national character, women's suffrage, literary intellectuals, liberalism, socialism, trade unionism, feminism, pacifism, democracy and a dozen other topics."

Andrew Rutherford married Nancy Browning in 1953. She survives him, together with their two sons and one daughter.

Church news

Latest appointments include: The Rev James Allison, Chaplain, Muddersfield University (Wakefield), to be Vicar, Eriington (same diocese).

Luke (Southwark), to be Vicar, South Beddington St Michael and All Angels (same diocese).

The Rev Eddie Marquez, Curate, Reading St John the Evangelist and St Stephen (Oxford), to be Assistant Curate, New Malden St John the Divine and Conobe (Southwark).

The Rev Dr Tarjei Park, Assistant Curate, Lancaster St Mary (Blackburn), to be Vicar, Enfield St Michael and All Angels (London).

THE THAMES DREADNOUGHT LAUNCH OF THE THUNDERER AT BLACKWALL. [BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT] The Thunderer, the first vessel of the Dreadnought type to be built on the Thames...

ON THIS DAY February 2, 1911. The design and building of the Dreadnought type of battleship was due to the vigorous advocacy of Lord Fisher, First Sea Lord 1904-10. The first was launched in 1906 and 13 more were built.

NEWS

£2 billion boost for the NHS

Tony Blair is planning a permanent increase of between £1.5 billion and £2 billion in the National Health Service budget next summer to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of its creation.

The Prime Minister is being urged by senior ministers, particularly Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, to divert a substantial proportion of savings from spending reviews into a real increase in health spending.

Britain drafts UN resolution on Iraq

Britain will not shrink from military action against Iraq but the Government is to draft a new United Nations resolution in an attempt to break the diplomatic impasse.

Tax referendums

Voters are to be given the chance to veto excessive council tax increases in referendums under plans for a shake-up in local government finance to be unveiled by John Prescott within the next few weeks.

Ciarke allegations

The Prince Of Wales will cancel plans to invest Sir Arthur C. Clarke with a knighthood unless the writer unequivocally denies allegations that he had sex with young boys while living in Sri Lanka.

Lewinsky fight

Monica Lewinsky could join forces with President Clinton's legal team to fight Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, her lawyer declared.

Drink-drive warning

Road safety campaigners told ministers that lower drink-drive limits are not the best way to cut the roads death toll.

Tuneless music

Julian Lloyd Webber launched an outspoken attack on the fashion for "tuneless avant garde music" which is condemning classical music to decline.

Schools battle

Two senior education advisers are locked in a battle of words which threatens to overshadow tomorrow's progress report on school standards.

Papers spike the Duchess of York

The Duchess of York's career as a newspaper columnist is in tatters as major publications across North America have dropped her \$100,000-a-year diary of anecdotes and homespun wisdom.



The Pope dropped in on an ordinary Roman family — the Managos — yesterday as part of a missionary campaign.

Preview: Behind the scenes of Blackpool: *Pleasure Beach* (BBC1, 9.30). Review: Matthew Bond on *Nothing but the Truth*: "For prime-time Saturday night this seemed pretty much bang on." Pages 46, 47

Saddam's deadline

The rest of the world now believes that the British and the Americans are not bluffing. Baghdad should be in no doubt that defiance will invite catastrophe.

Brothers in adversity

A lurch back to the Left five or so years hence would seem risky. Could any Scot lead the Labour Party in London once Scotland is devolved?

Know the limit

Allowing the maximum level of liberty and then punishing transgression is not only more reasonable than having draconian laws, it is also more effective.

PETER RIDDELL

Tony Blair can deliver what Bill Clinton has promised. That is the most piquant feature of the Prime Minister's visit.

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

In 1992, it may have seemed possible that Nato, deprived of the justification of the Cold War, would simply fade away, and be replaced by the common foreign and security policy envisaged in Article V of the Maastricht treaty.

DAMIAN THOMPSON

The secret of successful religion lies more in its ability to colonise social networks, or set up new ones, than in its ability to tailor doctrines to modern spiritual tastes.

Alan Campbell-Johnson, author: John Puffan, surgeon; Junior Wells, harmonica player; Professor Andrew Rutherford, Kipling scholar.

Random breath testing: NHS waiting lists; Wrens at sea.

The US is acting as the world's gendarme, without bothering to seek the permission or even support of its allies.

BUSINESS

£100 billion merger: Unions will hold emergency meetings today amid fears that a Glaxo-Smith-Kline Beecham merger will lead to 2,000 job losses.

Euro optimism: Central bankers forecast that the Euro will be introduced smoothly and that it will challenge the world supremacy of the dollar.

Granada: Chairman Gerry Robinson is prepared to commit himself to the media and hospitality group until his retirement despite becoming chairman of the Arts Council.

Divis: The Co-operative Society is planning to bring back its famous "divi" albeit in modern form. Shoppers will be able to get either vouchers or cash.

FEATURES

Power generation: Never before have thirty-somethings had so much clout. Television is obsessed with them, they dominate the bestseller list, they set precedents in politics.

Fundamental particles: Physicists are hoping to find the neutrino, which may hold the key to one of the Universe's enduring puzzles — why the cosmos isn't as massive as it should be.

FASHION

Uptown women: American designers offer women clothes that are body conscious and affordable, says Grace Bradberry.

ARTS

Top scores: "The goal hit by Steven Hughes for Arsenal against Chelsea had an equal effect on the feelings as Favarotti climbing up *Nessus dorma*".

Rattle's batter: Sir Simon Rattle tells Richard Morrison why the Government's plan to remove music from the primary school curriculum is a disaster.

Discuss: Intended as a fairytale for teenagers, Philip Ridley's play *Fairytaleheart* comes across more as a primer for teachers on the meaning of metaphor.

Sheer magic: Tchaikovsky's "lost" opera *The Enchantress* makes its London debut in a brilliant Royal Opera staging that more than proves its merits.

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

POP Ancient and modern: Chumbawamba and James Taylor concerts reviewed.

LAW Preview of the 1998 woman lawyer conference and achievement awards.

FOOTBALL

Football: A rare goal by David Batty, the England midfielder player, gave Newcastle United a 1-0 victory over Aston Villa in the Premiership match at Villa Park.

Test tour: When they should have been playing the fourth day of the first Test match in Jamaica, England were instead involved in a gentle two-day practice against Trinidad and Tobago.

Tennis: Petr Korda finally achieved his long-delayed first victory in a grand-slam tournament, at the age of 30, when he overcame Marcelo Rios with some ease in the final of the Australian Open.

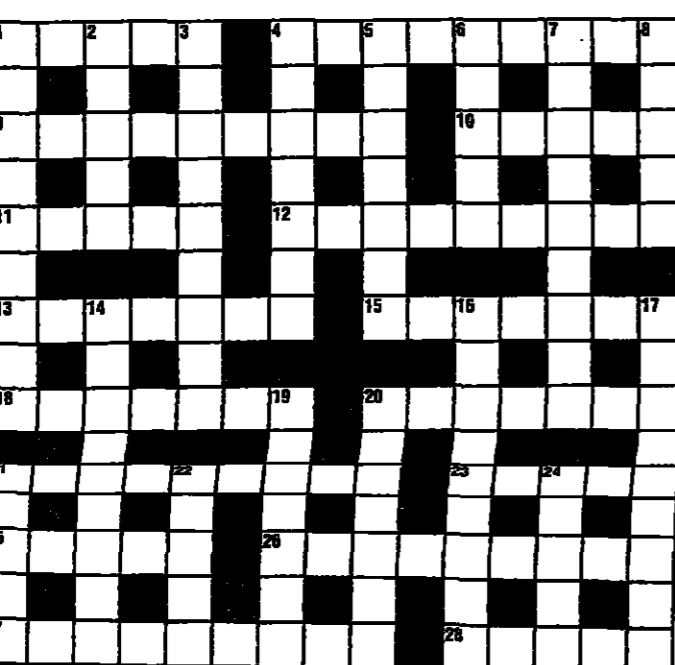
Rugby union: Bath underlined all their traditional virtues of character and doggedness in becoming the first British side to win the Heineken Cup.

Cricket: England won a magnificent seven-wicket victory over New Zealand in Johannesburg to win the Under-19 World Cup.

Sailing: Light winds made for constant changes when the yachts left Auckland at the start of the fifth leg of the Whitbread Round the World race.

17, 22, 30, 40, 46, 48. Bonus: 10. Two tickets win £43 million each for six numbers; 27 win £111,495 for five numbers and the bonus; 603 win £1,120 for five numbers; 39,946 win £103 for four numbers; 880,951 win £10 for three.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,704



- ACROSS 1 Chapter in story about striking display (5). 2 Len's girl, a strangely communicative type (9). 3 Poor condition of snuffers held by underworld couple (9). 4 Leading minister welcoming little girl's song in church (5). 5 Art mostly by recognised painters hanging on the wall (5). 6 Only ages 1 disturbed in these islands (9). 7 Great person lacking time to be licentious (7). 8 Judge's title rejected by fat dunderhead (7). 9 Boasting before short round of playing of an organ (7). 10 Need, in some quarters, to reduce tension (7). 11 There's no amateur lightweight in the scheduled events (9). 12 Greeting used around small island republic (5).

- DOWN 1 Winning conclusion to Cockney's trial (9). 2 One who prizes job as financial administrator (9). 3 From which some theatre-goers may get their cut (7). 4 Confused driving student enters in distinctive clothing (7). 5 A nurse quietly accommodated in Poplar (5). 6 He takes a lot of interest in sole, say, and other fish (4,5). 7 High-class doctor admitted to Burlington House dance (5). 8 Sweetener from American fellow out East in crazy cliché (9). 9 Disgusting hot meal, so badly cooked (9). 10 Remedial treatment for a set that may need drill (9). 11 Precessional mineral found in mountain pass (7). 12 Flag not right for this ship (7). 13 Downright chubby (5). 14 Chief magistrate whose mate is reportedly rough (5). 15 Peaceful woman — one associated with Descartes (5).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,703 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

ALL INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions. UK Weather: All regions 0330 446 910. UK Roads - All regions 0330 401 810.

World City Weather. 153 international cities. London 4.52 pm to 7.36 am. Edinburgh 4.53 pm to 7.51 am.

Car reports by fax. Call from your fax handset. You may have to set up a call receiver mode.

Hours of Darkness. Sun rises: 7.38 am. Sun sets: 4.52 pm. Moon sets: 11.52 pm. Moon rises: 10.15 am.

Newsprint Recycling. Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

FORECAST

London, SE England, E Midlands, W Midlands: dry with cloud breaking to give good spells of sunshine. Wind light to moderate, northeast. Sharp to severe frost early and late. Max 5C (41F).

Around Britain Yesterday. 24 hrs to 5 pm: b=brilliant c=cloud d=drizzle ds=drizzle storm, du=duff, f=fog, fg=fg, g=gale, h=halt, i=rain, m=moderate, o=overcast, r=rain, s=sunny, w=wind.

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, wind, and max/min temperatures for various UK locations.

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WEATHER



Changes to chart below from noon: High A will decline slowly; low C will run southeast and start to fill; low F is expected to move slowly east and deepen.

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, wind, and max/min temperatures for various UK locations.

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Handwritten Arabic text in a box.



TROPHY HUNTERS
Vintage Bath rise to the occasion in Bordeaux
PAGE 33

CZECH MATE
Final piece falls into place for Korda at Australian Open
PAGE 27



SPORT FOR ALL
Why the Mini Marathon is a runaway success
PAGE 38

PLUS
Lynne Truss on a whole new Ball game at Pompey
PAGE 34



TIMES SPORT

MONDAY FEBRUARY 2 1998

NEWCASTLE PUSH VILLA INTO THE DANGER ZONE

Dalglish enjoys the last laugh

WHEN things are not going right, when each apparently insignificant incident is magnified into a crisis, what better way to ward off the demons than by winning a match in the FA Cup? It does not necessarily solve everything, and the essential problems still lurk beneath the surface, but it doesn't half make you feel better.

Thus, Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle United manager, left Villa Park yesterday in a much happier frame of mind than that in which he had arrived. His side had not performed particularly well — at times, they were barely adequate — but the three points gained at the expense of Aston Villa will have done much to alleviate his usual air of despondency.

"We were not happy with what has been happening and have had to accept that improvement was needed," Dalglish said. "We've played reasonably well over the past four or five games and it was nice to get some reward for a change." That, in Dalglish-speak, was tantamount to euphoria.

History had indicated a favourable result for Newcastle. Since the formation of the Premiership, they had not lost in their nine previous meetings with Villa. Reality, after an opening spell of unbridled tedium, suggested little tangible reward for the spectators who braved a chill afternoon in Birmingham.

There was little to warm the cockles, only a series of misplaced passes and botched efforts on goal. Villa took 25 minutes to win their first corner. Newcastle took another three minutes. When Shearer drew a save from Bosnich, with a firm near-post header from Gillespie's cross in the 41st minute, it was the first attempt on target from either side.

At least Shearer continued his rehabilitation, in front of John Gorman, the England assistant manager, without any obvious discomfort. Though tetchy at times, and the object of persistent jeering from the home supporters, he maintained a presence that could not be ignored.

Taylor wasted Villa's best opportunity of the first half, nodding over from close range after Scimeca had headed back Draper's corner, and should have also done better shortly after the interval. Collymore crossed from the right, Yorke cushioned it but Taylor drove weakly at Hislop.



By Russell Kempson

Half-time had brought relief from the torpor, a sense of release from the feeble fare on offer. Happily, the players reappeared in a better mood. Not so much more able, but certainly more willing. Show enthusiasm and most fans will forgive and forget even the crassest error.

At last, in the 58th minute, a goal arrived, albeit from the unlikelyst of sources. Barty seized on Wright's mistake and crossed for Shearer to bludgeon a shot that was blocked by Ehiogu. It ricocheted kindly for Barty and his angled 20-yard drive flew past Bosnich, who was unrighted by Andersson and managed only to parry the ball into the net.

Barty is more noted for his midfield destruction than goal-scoring exploits and, for a moment, he stood in disbelief at what he had done. Perhaps the reactions of his team-mates, who submerged him in a mass of jubilation, rekindled his memory: it was his first goal for the club since August 1996 and only the eighth league goal of his career.

TABLE

Man Utd	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	13	8	2	3	15	5	19
Chelsea	14	7	3	4	11	13	15
Sheff Wed	14	6	4	4	11	11	12
Sheff Utd	14	5	3	6	10	14	8
Liverpool	14	5	2	7	10	13	8
Blackburn	14	5	1	8	10	13	7
Derby	14	4	4	6	10	13	4
Leeds	14	4	2	8	10	13	3
Nottingham	14	3	3	8	10	13	3
Wolves	14	3	2	9	10	13	3
Southampton	14	3	1	10	10	13	3
Sheff Albion	14	2	3	9	10	13	3
Sheff Brown	14	2	2	10	10	13	3
QPR	14	2	1	11	10	13	3
Reading	14	2	1	11	10	13	3
Cardiff	14	2	0	12	10	13	3
Millwall	14	1	3	10	10	13	3
Wolves	14	1	2	11	10	13	3
Sheff Albion	14	1	1	12	10	13	3
Sheff Brown	14	1	1	12	10	13	3
Sheff Albion	14	1	0	13	10	13	3
Sheff Brown	14	1	0	13	10	13	3
Sheff Albion	14	1	0	13	10	13	3
Sheff Brown	14	1	0	13	10	13	3
Sheff Albion	14	1	0	13	10	13	3
Sheff Brown	14	1	0	13	10	13	3
Sheff Albion	14	1	0	13	10	13	3
Sheff Brown	14	1	0	13	10	13	3

"He's prolific, isn't he?" Dalglish said, lapsing into humour for the first time in weeks.

"I suppose that's his one for the season, but I wouldn't mind if he doubled it." Typically, Barty, the arch purveyor of the team ethic, felt more satisfaction for his colleagues than for himself. "We've been slipping towards the bottom of the table and we needed that," he said. "We've got to get back up there."

His goal rekindled the game, too. Villa found a new urgency, a new desire, with the introduction of Joachim for Wright giving them extra mobility up front. Too often, though, nicely constructed approach work was spoiled by a weak final pass. Hislop was rarely inconvenienced.

Newcastle move on to St James' Park on Wednesday, when they aim to swat the minor irritants of Stevenage Borough in their FA Cup fourth-round replay. With the horrors experienced in Herefordshire behind them and a second league win in 11 matches now safely secured, they should not slip up again. "Stevenage? Least said, soonest mended," Dalglish said.

For Villa, who lie only four points away from the drop zone, the future is less clear. A Uefa Cup quarter-final against Atlético Madrid awaits next month, but the achievement in getting there no longer masks the fundamental problems that Little has to unravel.

"I'm disappointed, naturally," he said. "I couldn't really see anybody scoring and I thought it was going to end up 0-0. We lifted the tempo after the goal, it was just a pity we couldn't have done so before it. Of course I'm concerned about our position. It is not healthy to do well in the cups and not in the league."

Little also has an FA Cup fifth-round tie against Coventry City to consider, but that, too, is no more than a diversion from the real thing. The Premiership is and always will be the staple diet and, at the moment, Villa are going hungry.

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2) M. Esson — U. Edozie, G. Southgate, R. Souttar — S. Gillespie, M. Draper, L. Hendrie, J. Taylor, A. Wright, sub J. Jordan, G. Hirst and C. Grayson, D. Frank.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2) S. Hogg — S. Walker, S. Harvey, S. Pearce, A. Payne — K. Simpson, R. Lee, D. Bury, J. Brewster, sub J. Anderson, sub J. D. Tomkinson, G. A. Shearer, sub S. Lodge.



Best defence: Southgate halts a typically rampaging run by the rejuvenated Shearer with an exquisitely-timed sliding tackle

ALAN SHEARER Already showing enough of his old form to give Premiership defenders sleepless nights and Glenn Hoddle sweet dreams. Almost scored with one close range header and, while the sharpness is still returning, he lasted 90 minutes without appearing to flag.

38	Passes completed	22
9	Passes incomplete	30
2	Tackles made	0
5	Tackled	0
1	Fouls committed	1
5	Fouled	0
2	Caught offside	0
5	Goal attempts	1
3	On target	1

STAN COLLYMORE Looked to have lost his bearings in the final seconds when the ball came to him on the edge of the six-yard box and that summed up a mediocre afternoon. Work rate could not be faulted, but Villa need him scoring more than running back. Only had one shot, from 25 yards, and that was blocked before it had even reached the penalty area.

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سكزا من الأصل

GOLF

Bjorn finds the right diagnosis for Doctor

THOMAS BJORN won the Heineken Classic in Perth yesterday after overtaking Ian Woosnam on the final green. Bjorn, of Denmark, had a closing round of 74 for a final total of 280 — eight under par — on a day when the Freemantle Doctor produced a windswept Vines Resort course and led to a dramatic finale.

Australian Open triumph ends years on sidelines for dashing Czech Korda makes a grand entrance

JULIAN MUSCAT



Tennis Correspondent in Melbourne



Leaps and bounds: Korda cannot contain his joy after winning his first grand-slam final

HE HAS had plenty of time to choreograph the climax. He rose from his knees, flung his racket skywards, performed a cartwheel and was away into the crowd, hugging his coach, his wife and his daughter before signing off in trademark fashion, with three scissor kicks. In his 33rd grand-slam tournament, Petr Korda, 30, had finally arrived with a 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 roasting of Marcelo Rios in the Australian Open final here.

And what a start it was. Korda erupted on the very first point, blazing a clean backhand winner to the junction of side and baseline. The pattern was already established: Rios retrieving, Korda probing before unleashing those fearsome ground strokes into spaces that increasingly beckoned with Rios's reluctance to chase.

Rios, seeded No 9, was orchestrating his own funeral, a fact that Korda quickly exploited. There was to be no respite from his blistering baseline assault. Indeed, the realisation that Rios could barely middle the ball saw Korda ease off slightly.

The one period of interest embraced the early struggle for supremacy. Rios shaped a break point on Korda's opening service game, but the Czech saved it off with a big service. That dictated the pattern of the match as a



'Rios's nerves overwhelmed him from the start'

whole. On the few occasions that Rios threatened, Korda unleashed a service combining pace and penetration. More often, however, Rios gifted Korda points with unforced errors. It made a damning indictment of one of the most consistent baseline batters in the game. Rios also served badly, regularly missing his first — even when taking 30mph off its pace. He was broken seven times in 12 games and his footwork, normally nimble, was pedantic at times.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Amateurs survive handicap

FEATHERSTONE Lions and Ellenborough earned a chance to meet Super League opposition with surprise victories in the third round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup yesterday.

That will matter not a jot to Korda. Ravaged by injury and retrieved from the brink of retirement, he introduces a new component to his resurgence by the day. Yesterday, he ascribed this victory to his father, Petr, who, he said, "gave the gold to my hand when he taught me to play tennis".



Photographers join in the fun by imitating Korda's celebratory scissor kick in Melbourne

Hingis takes leave of the young generation

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT

HOW good is Martina Hingis? Her defeat of Conchita Martinez in the Australian Open women's singles final here on Saturday marked her fourth grand-slam title in 12 months. But for a horse-riding accident, it would probably have been her fifth in succession.

Kournikova, in the third round, when she looked second-best for much of the deciding set. She might have lost to Anke Huber in the semi-finals. But although she keeps winning, she fails to convince at a time when some of her most dangerous opponents are out of action.

Hingis was unsteady in the early rounds. She was underprepared and may well stretch away from the pack when she reaches concert pitch. Against that, she may be firing of the incessant demands of practice. Her body language is not assured. Last year, she smiled as she won; now she smiles only after she wins.

So it should. Graf and Novotna may have peaked and Seles, with her sad troubles, will struggle to recapture her best. Yet before these players properly rejoin the circuit, the younger generation will have come to fruition.



Hingis seals her victory with a kiss

HOCKEY: YOUNGSTERS OVERCOME HEAT AND INEXPERIENCE TO POST FIRST VICTORY OVER AUSTRALIA IN 11 YEARS

Sharpe's late goal gives Cannock winning edge

VICTORIES for Cannock, Canterbury and Southgate enabled them to retain the top three positions in the premier division of the National League yesterday. (Sydney Friday wires).

England display the Wright stuff

MAGGIE SOUYAVE, the England coach, could never be accused of getting carried away with a result. In the euphoria surrounding the team's 4-2 triumph in Perth — their first victory over Australia, the world and Olympic champions in 11 years — Souyave was calm and personified.

BOWLS

Cheers for Foster as he takes world title

A NEW era was ushered in at Preston yesterday when the finalists in the Saga world indoor singles championship entered the Guild Hall to the musical strains of Eye of the Tiger.

SNOOKER

Early catch lifts gloom for Morgan

DARREN MORGAN, for whom disenchantment has been an ever-present companion this season, finally lifted the gloom by defeating Andy Hicks 5-4 in the first round of the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley Conference Centre yesterday.

Y FEBRUARY... N BRIS... d Hunt title... seeks me... stoppable... back on tra... breaks leg... on course... on cruise... in Olive... nd hurt... out work

FA Carling Premiership: Leicester drag champions back towards the pack

Cottee strikes to explode United myth

THERE is a certain sadness when a myth is shattered, a melancholy realisation that reality is not quite as magical as it seemed. It was in the air around Old Trafford on Saturday...



MANCHESTER UNITED 0 LEICESTER CITY 1

By Peter Robinson

still in the European Cup and FA Cup, they have lost three out of their past four league fixtures and have a lot of matches left to play. Game on, as they say. Alex Ferguson had played the gentle patriarch of late, but that approach has ended...



Cottee and his Leicester City colleagues celebrate the goal that inflicted an unexpected defeat on the leaders at Old Trafford

Barnsley refuse to accept defeat

AS THEY fight to avoid relegation — and they have not given up hope, however slender their resources — Barnsley must be relieved that they do not have to play Chelsea again...

players try to make monkeys of referees. Two minutes from time, Petrescu fell to the ground as Morgan challenged him, got to his feet sheepishly when Winter refused to buy his dive and was booked, quite properly, a minute later...



CHELSEA 2 BARNSLEY 0

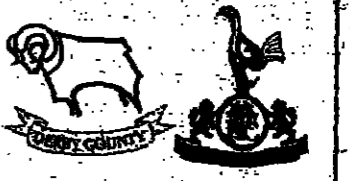
By Michael Henderson

It was Vialli, starting a game for the first time since Boxing Day, who put Chelsea ahead after 24 minutes, squeezing the ball in when Hughes redirected Newton's left-wing cross with his head. Hughes used his head again to score the second goal after Vialli had released Petrescu down the right.

Advertisement for indoor tennis at Battersea Park. Includes text: 'AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES SEE INDOOR TENNIS IN THE PARK', 'FEBRUARY 23 - MARCH 1, 1998', and '30 Results and tables'. Also features logos for sponsors like Dunlop and Mercedes-Benz.

Advertisement for football match between West Ham United and Everton. Includes text: 'Ferdinand subverts Sinclair supremacy', 'WEST HAM UNITED 2 EVERTON 2', and 'By Brian Glanville'. Includes a photo of Ferdinand celebrating a goal.

Relegation plight not lost on Ginola



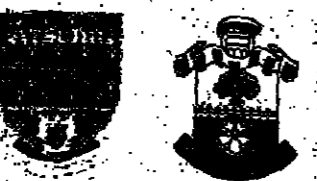
DERBY COUNTY 2 TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 1

By Richard Hobson

DAVID GINOLA is the embodiment of chic. Whether running at defenders or sweeping passes the breadth of the field, he oozes flair. This is indisputable. Rather more contentious is the perception of Ginola as a footballing romantic. Such an image is cast asunder with a pragmatic assessment of the predicament facing Tottenham Hotspur...

Relegation plight not lost to Ginola

Wenger's bark puts bite into Arsenal



ARSENAL 3 SOUTHAMPTON 0 By Matt Dickinson

THE ravenous Press hounds thought they were on to a story. Yes, there was one time I was really angry with the players...

"I was really annoyed because I thought we were throwing our season away," Wenger said, after a victory over Southampton that took a long time coming and was then achieved with three goals in six second-half minutes.

"It was one of the times I was really angry. I just had the feeling something was not right. We were 1-0 up against Blackburn with the game in hand and then we suddenly lose 3-1. That was a huge disappointment, a big shock for the whole team.

"Maybe, because his little strop has helped to transform Arsenal's fortunes. It was after the Blackburn defeat, and trailing 11 points behind Manchester United, that Wenger threw in the towel in the race for the FA Carling Premiership title.

The key to Arsenal's revival appears to be the subtle presence of Overmars, free from a foot injury and now cutting inside

to devastating effect rather than allowing even mediocre full backs to funnel him down outside spaces on the wing.

Even better, perhaps, than Overmars was Parlour, who fully justified Wenger's pre-match assertion that he should be considered for England recognition when Glenn Hoddle, the coach, announces his two squads this morning.

FA Carling Premiership: Title contenders serve up best of British



Fowler may be down on his luck in front of goal, as he was against Blackburn on Saturday, but Liverpool are sticking by him and England might do too

GOALLESS, but the very antithesis of soulless, Anfield was a deceptive place for Glenn Hoddle and 43,990 others to be on Saturday.

It was a game that was British to the core — honest and organised and ferocious in its tempo, an afternoon on which the act of defence proved deservedly the equal to attacking endeavour.

Even its saddest moment, the innocently broken leg suffered by Jason McAteer, allowed an almost forgotten Englishman, Stephen Hendry, to shine.

This means that, temporarily at least, the foreign legionnaires are a back-up army. No Liverpool starting place for Friedel, Berger, Bjornneby, Kvamme or Riedel.

Yet what stifled the Mersey beat was the understanding between three men of defence. Hendry, who says that he is learning much from Colin Hendry, had earlier magnificently blocked Michael Owen when, in the 33rd minute, the crux of this game arrived.

Draw adds spice to Hoddle's Chile dish

Hoddle recently mused that he can see Owen, just 18, at a World Cup in 2002. The boy, however, is right now a compelling mixture of speed, awareness and audacity that may lose its thrust after the teenage years.

His antenna was on full alert to a ball played between the centre backs. He darted through and, with extraordinary presence of mind, straddled the ball, then stopped it with a dab of the outside of his right boot.



McAteer is taken from the field, his leg broken and his season almost certainly over



LIVERPOOL 0 BLACKBURN ROVERS 0 By Rob Hughes

would surely score. He was six yards out, the angle was tight, but the net was unprotected.



McAteer is taken from the field, his leg broken and his season almost certainly over

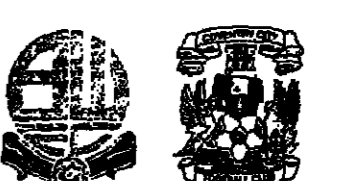
back is worthy of an England recall. Then there is Fowler. Evans, in his best Hillary Clinton style, is standing by his man.

England, Hodgson says, should pick his goalkeeper and also Sutton, his centre forward, and Sherwood, who contested midfield blow for blow with Ince.

The hush as ambulancemen worked tenderly on McAteer, the sympathetic applause that rang around the ground as he was taken away on a stretcher, are sad reflections of a game that one moment is full of running and hope, the next shattered.

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): D. James — J. McAteer (sub: R. Jones, E. Smith, D. Watson, P. Babb, S. Helwerson — G. McManaman (sub: P. Berger, 43), P. Ince, J. Campbell, D. Leighton — M. Owen, R. Foster. BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T. Flowers — J. Korner, S. Hendrick, G. Hoddle, G. Clift — S. Riley, T. Sherwood, W. Hobbins, J. Walker — C. Sutton, K. Gallacher (sub: D. Duff, 76). Referee: P. Durkin.

Todd draws sympathy vote from Strachan



BOLTON WANDERERS 1 COVENTRY CITY 5 By Nick Szczepanik

TO SAY that nothing in the first hour or so of the game at the Reebok Stadium on Saturday prepared anyone for what happened next would be a gross understatement.

"I could not envisage what happened today," Colin Todd, the Bolton Wanderers manager, said. "We gave the supporters a lot in terms of effort and desire in the first half, but that little period cost us dearly."

Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, was sympathetic. "Bolton will feel unfortunate," he said. "They had some good chances, but didn't take them. We've got guys who are on fire, which is unfortunate for my new signing, Viorel Moldovan."

Dublin's slick gave Huckerby the chance to seize on an error by Fairclough and put Coventry ahead just short of the hour, and Dublin's header rebounded from Branagan for Huckerby to score his second. Dublin then scored

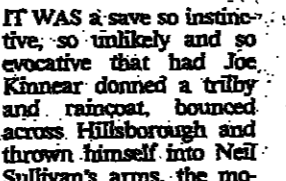
twice himself, heading in after Breen had won Telfer's corner and slotting Phillips's horrid miskick coolly past Branagan.

Even in the first half, Bolton never got to grips with Coventry's delivery of set-plays; poor defending from another corner by Telfer gave Whelan plenty of room to volley the equaliser five minutes after Sellars had given Bolton the lead.

Todd, slumped in a chair in the press lounge, took the blame squarely on himself, although he had warned his players at half-time of the consequences of allowing a repeat performance of Coventry's equaliser.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K. Branagan — N. Cox, A. Todd, C. Fairclough, J. Phillips — J. Pollock (sub: P. Beerdsley, 70), P. Francis, J. Sheridan, S. Sellars — N. Blake, R. Taylor (sub: D. Haddock, 70). COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): M. Hedden — R. Morrison, R. Shaw (sub: M. Hall, 79), G. Breen, D. Barnes — P. Telfer, T. Sonnett, G. Brough (sub: G. Smith, 83), G. Whelan — D. Dublin, D. Huckerby (sub: V. Moldovan, 79). Referee: D. Gallagher.

Wednesday frozen out by Sullivan's action replay



SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 1 WIMBLEDON 1 By Keith Pike

IT WAS a save so instinctive, so unlikely and so evocative that had Joe Kinnear donned a trilby and raincoat, bounced across Hillsborough and thrown himself into Neil Sullivan's arms, the moment would have been complete for those whose minds had been drawn back irresistibly to images of Stoke, Montgomery and the 1973 Cup Final.

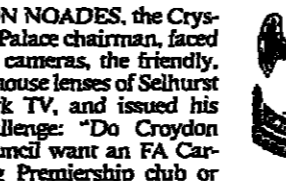


SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K. Pressman — I. Nolan, D. Walker, J. Newson, A. Hinchcliffe — N. Alexander (sub: G. Whittingham, 87), P. Atkinson, M. Pemberton, P. Rusk — B. Carlton (sub: C. Mayest, 74), A. Booth. WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N. Sullivan — K. Cunningham, C. Perry, D. Bazzard, A. White — N. Jordan, P. Fane, S. Castle, M. Hughes — C. Lamborn, J. East (sub: M. Gayle, 88). Referee: A. White.

Wednesday deserved and, with his team now in the top half of the table — they were bottom when he took over in November — he could afford to be sanguine. "It is up to the teams below us to catch us now," he said.

One of those teams is Wimbledon, who, for the second successive weekend, had travelled to Yorkshire with the odds stacked against them and emerged unscathed. Kinnear must sometimes feel like a hospital spokesman as he gives his weekly bulletin on those wounded in action — eight first-teamers were twiddling their crutches on Saturday alongside the suspended Vinnie Jones — but his kids are learning quickly. No frills, no fuss, no surrender. No problem. No money, either. "Only three of my team today costing the equivalent of Andy Hinchcliffe's right leg."

Noades finds no home comfort in Palace slide



CRYSTAL PALACE 0 LEEDS UNITED 2 By Russell Kempson

RON NOADES, the Crystal Palace chairman, faced the cameras, the friendly, in-house lenses of Selhurst Park TV, and issued his challenge: "Do Croydon Council want an FA Carling Premiership club or not?" he said, in reference to Palace's desire to raise their ground capacity to 40,000. When the interviewer dared to suggest, ever so politely, that this was an ultimatum, he was firmly rebuffed. "I do not make ultimatums," Noades said.

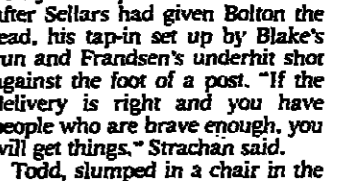


CRYSTAL PALACE (3-5-2): K. Miller — V. Iremode, A. Lingham, H. Hutchinson — J. Grant, M. Edwards, A. Roberts, T. Ekin, D. Gordon — M. Bani, B. Dyer. LEEDS UNITED (4-1-3-2): M. Mearns — G. Kelly, D. Whelan, R. Mollins (sub: A. Holliday, 61), D. Robertson — L. Radebe — D. Hooper, B. Brown, H. Kewell — R. Wallace, J. F. Henshale (sub: L. Maitland, 88). Referee: U. Rennie.

Whatever the parochial politics of South London, or Noades's less than subtle inferences, Palace are heading for the Nationwide League first division, anyway. After losing to Leeds United on Saturday, they set a club record of 12 home league matches, including the final game of last season, without a victory. Even Doncaster Rovers have won twice in front of their own fans.

From the twelfth minute onwards, when Hasselbaink added to Wallace's opener, Palace were heading on a one-way ticket to nowhere. They tried hard, at times valiantly, but rarely looked like closing the gap. "This is the Premiership, this is the stark reality," Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, said. "If you're not good enough, you end up down at the bottom. It's no good starting to play when you're 2-0 behind. We've got to play a lot tighter if we're going to stay in this division."

Wednesday frozen out by Sullivan's action replay



SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 1 WIMBLEDON 1 By Keith Pike

IT WAS a save so instinctive, so unlikely and so evocative that had Joe Kinnear donned a trilby and raincoat, bounced across Hillsborough and thrown himself into Neil Sullivan's arms, the moment would have been complete for those whose minds had been drawn back irresistibly to images of Stoke, Montgomery and the 1973 Cup Final.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Table with 3 columns: Home, Away, and Points. Lists football clubs and their current positions in the Premier League.

OVERSEAS

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NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

Table with 3 columns: Home, Away, and Points. Lists Nationwide Football League First Division results.

SECOND DIVISION

Table with 3 columns: Home, Away, and Points. Lists Nationwide Football League Second Division results.

THIRD DIVISION

Table with 3 columns: Home, Away, and Points. Lists Nationwide Football League Third Division results.

GOALSCORERS

Table listing top goal scorers in the Nationwide Football League.

BELL'S PREMIER DIVISION

Table with 3 columns: Home, Away, and Points. Lists Bell's Premier Division results.

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Filippo Maniero, left, of AC Milan, celebrates with Maurizio Ganz after scoring his first goal since his transfer from Parma, in the last minute Serie A match against Piacenza. Photograph: Carlo Fumagalli

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UNIBOND

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RYMAN

Table with 3 columns: Home, Away, and Points. Lists Ryman league results.

FATRO

Table with 3 columns: Home, Away, and Points. Lists Fatro league results.

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

Table with 3 columns: Home, Away, and Points. Lists various non-league and national league results.

DR MARTENS

Table with 3 columns: Home, Away, and Points. Lists Dr Martens league results.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST

Table with 3 columns: Home, Away, and Points. Lists Northern Counties East league results.

NORTHERN COUNTIES WEST

Table with 3 columns: Home, Away, and Points. Lists Northern Counties West league results.

LEAGUE OF WALES

Table with 3 columns: Home, Away, and Points. Lists League of Wales results.

WINSTONLEIGH KENT LEAGUE

Table with 3 columns: Home, Away, and Points. Lists Winstonleigh Kent League results.

WILTSHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE

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POOLS CHECK

Table with 3 columns: Home, Away, and Points. Lists Pools Check results.

Nationwide League Robson's team rises above mediocrity to close gap at the top

Moreno rewards Middlesbrough

Assaulted linesman calls for protection

By MATT DICKINSON

EDWARD MARTIN, the linesman who was knocked unconscious during Portsmouth's 1-1 draw with Sheffield United at Fratton Park on Saturday, has called for more protection for match officials.

The Football Association yesterday launched an investigation into the incident during the Nationwide League first division match, claiming that it was too early to speculate on possible action against either club. While its powers are unlimited, however, Portsmouth are likely to escape serious punishment because the attack involved only one visiting supporter.

John Aldridge, the Tranmere Rovers manager, must be tempted to dust off his boots after his side set a League record against Manchester City by notching their fifth successive goalless draw. It is now 597 minutes since they scored.

Waiting for goals at Burnley has also been an exercise in patience, but that ended in spectacular fashion against York City. Chris Waddle's side climbed off the bottom of the second division with a 7-2 victory. Andy Cooke scored a hat-trick.

Stoke City..... 2
Middlesbrough..... 2

By RICHARD ROBSON

MIDDLESBROUGH WERE moved to the top of Nationwide League first division if they secure victory against Tranmere Rovers on Wednesday night. Their eighth win away from the Riverside Stadium yesterday enabled them to climb above Sunderland and Charlton Athletic to second place, but a moderate performance against a Stoke City side with a single success in 14 games underlined the paucity of talent in the division.

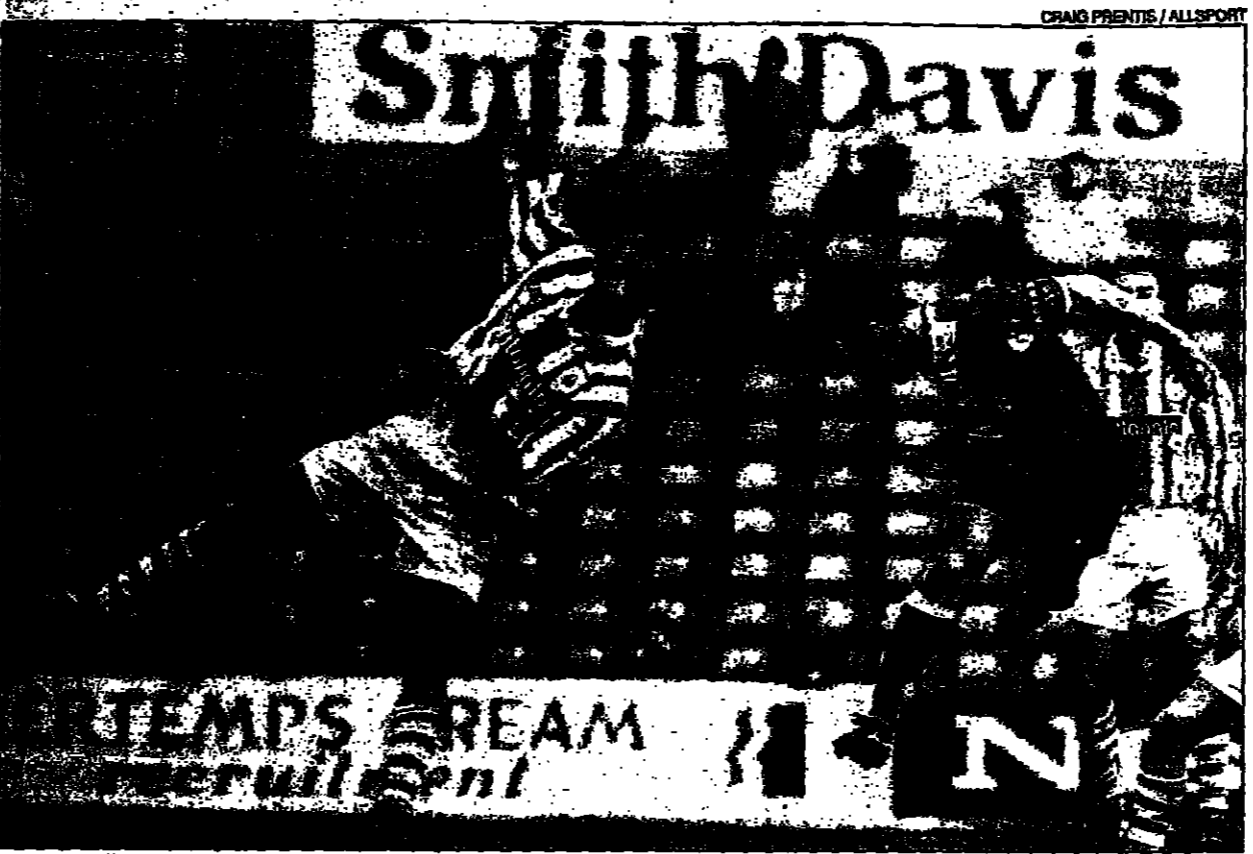
It said much for the manner in which Middlesbrough ground out the win at the Britannia Stadium that Bryan Robson, their manager, singled out Vickers and Pearson, the central defenders, for praise. Merson, operating alone up front, was mollified by Tweed, but Stoke lacked guile in their approach, play and were almost caught on the break twice in the closing minutes as they sought an equaliser.

"We were a little bit dull and the passing was not very good, but sometimes you have to battle and I was pleased with the way we stuck at it," Robson said. That is possibly part of the reason why he may be about to sign Michael Thomas, the Liverpool midfielder player, on loan.

There is a tatty, stained card clinging to the dressing-room wall at Gresty Road. It bears that old chestnut about miracles taking a little longer than it is impossible to deliver. It is unlikely that Dario Gradi nudged it up there.

Crewe Alexandra..... 1
Norwich City..... 0

By DAVID MADDOCK



Pearson, right, opens the scoring for Middlesbrough with a firm header at the Britannia Stadium yesterday

mundane as Robson's words tonight suggest. In the 35th minute, Baker was deemed to have brought down Tosh McKinlay on the left side of the penalty area. The decision was disputed vehemently before Kavanagh, against his former club, converted from the spot.

McKinlay was heavily involved, too, in the second incident of controversy. With eight minutes remaining, he appeared to follow a tussle with Higginet by slapping the Middlesbrough player on the back of the head and he was sent off. Chris Kamara, the Stoke manager, has asked

Phil Richards, the referee, to study a video recording. It was a sorry way for McKinlay to begin a loan spell at Stoke. His career with Celtic stalled when he struck Henrik Larsson in training and he has come to England for regular football in the build-up to the World Cup. "If you raise your

hands, you get sent off," Robson said. This ought not to be too difficult to grasp. The Middlesbrough victory was secured in the eightieth minute by Jaime Moreno, a Bolivia striker in his second spell at the club, who is on loan from DC United in the United States. His career has

Passionate Gradi earns his reward

and Johnson, 18, he has two midfield players of outstanding potential. Bigonot, at full back, is also the genuine article.

With Adebola a defender's worst nightmare, Crewe carved out enough chances to suggest that survival, in their unlikely first season at this level, is a comfortable prospect.

Crewe Alexandra (4-3-3): J. Kavanagh - M. Baker, M. Foran (capt), C. Lightowler, S. Baker, D. Wadley, L. Dwyer, S. Johnson, K. Lunt, K. Street - C. Lala, A. Adebola, M. Foran.

Quinn gives Fry a goal to treasure

Peterborough United..... 1
Rotherham United..... 0

By BILL EDGAR

PETERBOROUGH United are the unlikely sponsors of the Art Treasures of England exhibition that opened last week at the Royal Academy of Art. Supporters' Club members are promised free admission and those who endured this uncultured match may regret choosing to visit London Road instead of London on Saturday.

If some do switch their attention from football to art, however, the loss of revenue for Peterborough will be small fry compared to the rewards the club earns by employing the extrovert Barry Fry as manager.

The television air-time that Fry's humour and frankness can fill has, no doubt, helped to persuade BSkyB to dip into the Nationwide League third division. It plans to show Peterborough live twice during the next two months. In a world where many managers try to perfect the Kenny Dalglish technique of speak-



Fry: typically honest

Rangers forced to face home truths

John Farry had better steel himself for a dose of public approval. The chief executive of the Scottish Football Association is more used to invective, but his recent remarks benefited from fortunate timing. At the end of last week, Farry referred to his country as "a dumping ground for has-been foreign players looking for their last pay cheque". The pungency of his observations are liable to have struck a chord with supporters of the champions.



Scottish commentary

On Saturday, Rangers lost 2-0 to St Johnstone at McDiarmid Park, allowing Heart of Midlothian, 2-0 winners over Dundee United, to take a share of the lead in the Bell's Scottish League premier division. Farry's comments were probably not intended to refer only, or indeed specifically, to the Ibrox side, whose imports are not in their dotage. He has, though, enunciated some widespread misgivings.

It is not so long since crowds swooned at the very thought of continental signings and some of them, such as Brian Laudrup, have performed with a lethal beauty. Nonetheless, individuals can succeed without ever establishing that bulk recruitment is a sound policy. Managers who are obliged to pore over faces from cosmopolitan agents are in the unglamorous position of catalogue shoppers.

The constraints were removed in 1996, when UEFA was compelled to lift the three-foreigners restriction that applied in European competition. It appeared then that the magnates would simply board the best talent that could be shipped in from all over the world. One feared that the wealthiest clubs would establish a permanent ascendancy.

Stevenage remain on Wembley way

Lynne Critchley follows the team that continues to cause embarrassment for Newcastle United

There is a fog on the Tyne, born of the hurt of piffing PR, perceived injustices and sub-standard performances on the pitch. It swelled the crowd to more than 900 at the FA Umbro Trophy second-round tie between Gateshead and Stevenage Borough at the International Stadium on Saturday. Had Sunderland not been at home to Port Vale, that number would have doubled with fans eager to see what one steward described as "the team that twinkled the Toun".

Newcastle United supporters have jumped on a different bandwagon, clucking at the words of players such as John Barnes and Barry Venison, who believe that Stevenage's celebrations after holding the mighty Newcastle to a 1-1 draw in the FA Cup were excessive and out of order.

It's all right to have it, just don't flaunt it, they say. Yet if Shearer cannot cope with the attentions and utterances of Mark Smith, a lad from the Vauxhall Conference, then what hope have we of surviving the attacks of malevolent Italians or Brazilians in the World Cup?

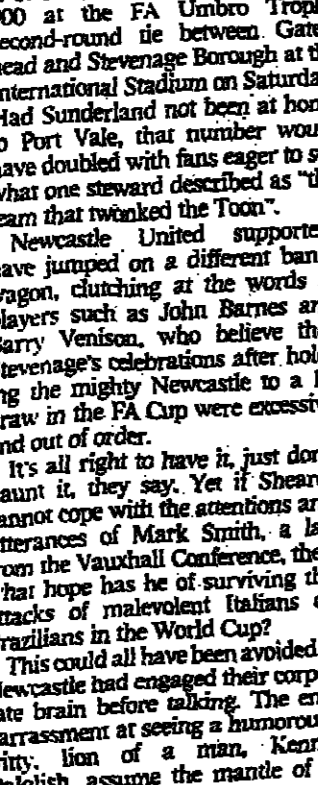
This could all have been avoided if Newcastle had engaged their corporate brain before talking. The embarrassment of seeing a humorous, witty, lion of a man, Kenny Dalglish, assume the mantle of a

skulking, mealy-mouthed school-boy, refusing to shake hands with Paul Falgout, the Stevenage manager, sign an autograph or give an interview, is just too horrendous to contemplate.

Captain Kenny, of the good ship Despair and master of media mismanagement, has muddled his way through the script so far. His assertion that he was satisfied with the result after the game at Broadhall Way reflected little credit on his team.

Newcastle were out-thought and out-fought and Stevenage deserved full credit for their achievement. Playing for a pay-cheque with the potential to buy a Porsche each week is no substitute for the pride and passion that Stevenage showed.

In the first half of the match on Saturday, it was Gateshead who displayed pride and passion. Bottom of the league, struggling to avoid relegation into the Unibond League, they dominated their fan-



The small army of fans was basking in success

Whittaker ends barren spell to halt Yeading

Yeading..... 0
Southport..... 6

By WALTER GAMMIE

ANDY WHITTAKER scored four times as Southport crushed Yeading, the conquerors of Yeovil Town, at The Warren on Saturday. It gave the Ryman League club unhappy memories to take away from their first appearance in the second round of the FA Umbro Trophy.

The Vauxhall Conference side led 1-0 at half-time, Whittaker having had a shot cleared off the line by Houghton before heading in a cross by Gamble after a raking cross-field pass by Paul Fletcher, the player-manager. Fletcher, at 41, says he will play on "as long as I'm doing OK - I can talk and organise things".

Allied Dunbar Premiership: Mapletoft guides Gloucester to victory with points spree

Leicester fall foul of Kingsholm factor

Gloucester 32 Leicester 25

By JOHN HOPKINS
NO TEAM likes going to Kingsholm and Leicester's experiences there yesterday will have done nothing to endear the ground to them.

probably said goodbye to any chance of winning. Bob Dwyer, the Leicester coach, has rarely appeared so depressed and downcast as he did not spare the rod yesterday.

"It's quite clear we are not good enough. We haven't got the skill we need, we haven't got the mental toughness we should have, nor do we have the discipline."

Yet there were many moments when Leicester talent burned brightly. They have the ability to step the pace up when they want and they scored three good tries, two by Michael Horak. His first, which took them into the lead for the first time, came after some elaborate passing between Waisale Serevi and Greenwood before Horak came thundering in at such an angle that he was unstoppable.

TODAY A full 16-page colour guide to the Five Nations Championship

Leicester must have known then that it was not going to be their day. They had lost Joel Stranksy, their fly half, with a damaged right eye on 34 minutes and had to endure the fiery reception that awaits all visitors to the ground.

Mapletoft had a broad grin on his face at the end and no wonder. He had scored 27 points, his highest total in the league. It was the first day of the Chinese New Year. "Not a good start to the year of the Tigers," Mapletoft said, grinning.

Leicester's problems include indiscipline and Martin Johnson appears culpable. The inhabitants of The Shed have taunted him successfully for some time and did so from the moment that they set eyes on him yesterday.

Gloucester are now fifth in the Allied Dunbar Premiership, while Leicester have



Joiner, the Leicester centre, prepares to try to tackle Fanolua as the Gloucester back sets off on a run

Dallaglio return launches Wasps

Wasps 32 Bristol 18

By MARK SOUSTER

mean their early domination resulted in nothing more than two penalty goals by Paul Burke. Rollitt came closest to scoring a try for the West Countrymen when he charged over the line but was unable to ground the ball.

Wasps themselves managed little of a constructive nature and relied on Bristol's indiscipline to build a comfortable advantage. Bristol conceded ten penalties in the first half, principally for off-side and ruck infringements. Rees, playing at fly half in place of the injured Alex

King, is not one to spurn such opportunities and his metro-nomic boot kept the scoreboard ticking over with four kicks in the first half to add to a prodigious dropped goal.

peel around, he was hit with such force by Cronin and Shaw that the Frenchman was knocked backward, lost possession and Scriverer pounced on the loose ball. The tempo was raised a little. Rees kicked his fifth penalty before Bristol pulled back a try. With nothing to lose, they ran a penalty, from the ruck James fed Burke and Lewsey timed his run with precision to slice through Wasps' soft centre for the try.



Eagle, the Bristol lock, claims possession at the lineout

Wasps retaliated and awarded yet another penalty. Dallaglio opted for the sum that ultimately resulted in a penalty try. Bristol served their best until last, swift transfer-ence of the ball put David Tinet into space and the Tongan scooped past Sampson to touch down.

ONE of the few positive aspects of this match at Loftus Road yesterday was the successful return from injury of Lawrence Dallaglio, the England captain. Having missed Wasps' past two games with damaged shoulder tissue, Dallaglio emerged unscathed from a relegation dogfight. His return was low-key, with Dallaglio easing his way back ahead of England's trip to Paris on Saturday.

After a Wasps performance that Dallaglio described as workmanlike, he said: "One feels better after 80 minutes' rugby, especially after a shoulder injury. I am 100 per cent fit. From that point of view, I felt it important to play. From a team point of view, it was an important four-pointer."

Diprose tries make difference

Richmond 10 Saracens 15

By MARK SOUSTER

IF anyone had doubted Saracens' credentials as potential champions, then this match, in which they completed the double over Richmond, would have persuaded them otherwise. It was an apparent, well-referenced encounter of brutal intensity, between two clubs whose heavy investment in players is bearing fruit.

Cottrell after 15 minutes disrupted the Richmond midfield. Three times, chances were squandered by westerward passes. Having failed to put width on the ball, Richmond resorted to route one with their bulky ball carriers, the Quinnell brothers, Martin and Clarke. But Saracens were up to the task with Hill, in particular, imperious. One cover tackle on Allan Besteman, which prevented a certain try before half-time, was proof enough that he is back to his best after an absence of

"We are improving rapidly, but if that is the best in the Premiership, then it shows we aren't far away," Kingston said. He was left to tie two lapses in concentration of which Diprose took advantage after four minutes, he burst over after a move involving Chuter and Piensaar; then, when the Springbok took a quick tap penalty as Richmond retreated, Diprose found the space to score.

The game, played largely at breakneck speed, was one in which defences reigned supreme. Richmond, for whom Agustín Pichot, the livewire scrum half, offered an added dimension in attack, can consider themselves unlucky not to have won. They will have to wait until the end of the month, when the sides meet again in the quarter-finals of the Teley's Bitter Cup, to seek revenge.

The home side's try was scored in injury-time in the first half. Having repulsed several attacks, Pichot and Martin combined to suck in the defence, allowing Craig Quinnell time to lob the ball to Fallon, who crossed in the corner. Davies converted and kicked a penalty, while Lynagh converted Diprose's first try and added a penalty.

Saracens' defensive organisation got them through. Tony Diprose and Richard Hill were outstanding in that regard and restricted Richmond to one try, just before half-time, when they could and should have scored more. The loss of Steve

five weeks with a back injury, Diprose was not far behind him. Beside scoring his two tries, in the fourth and 69th minutes, he managed to hold up Jim Fallon on the Saracens line when a try seemed inevitable.

"We play Bath, Leicester, Newcastle and Harlequins in the last five games of the season, which is when the championship will be decided, but winning here was vital," Diprose said.

Neath bow before old and new talents

Cardiff 50 Neath 11

By ALAN PEARY

THE old and the new, master and apprentice, combined to telling effect as Nigel Walker and Craig Morgan pulled the rug from a hitherto resurgent Neath side at Cardiff Arms Park. Walker, the veteran, smarting from his omission from the Wales team to face Italy this Saturday, scored two of Cardiff's seven tries, while Morgan raised the biggest cheer with a scintillating solo effort to end any hope of a Neath fightback.

on to his chip ahead and kicked on three times before scoring suggests a World Cup challenge is not out of the question. Either that or a place at Ninian Park.

for Gareth Thomas and Walker's second score, after the break but Cardiff cleared.

Morgan, 19, is still available for Wales Youth, but the manner in which he latched

Grayson has an ally in Andrew

Northampton 17 Newcastle 21

By BRIAN STILES

ROB ANDREW handed out criticism and praise in equal measure after this invigorating and abrasive Allied Dunbar Premiership first division match on Saturday.

The former England fly half congratulated Paul Grayson, his opposite number for Northampton, for his new-found confidence at international and club level. "He is also playing much flatter, making it more difficult for the opposition. We have to devise plans to stop him," Andrew said.

The Newcastle director of rugby was not so complimentary about John Pearson, the referee. "There were times in the first half when I thought only one team was being refereed," Andrew said. "We were penalised for not throwing in straight, yet our hooker [Newdale] is acknowledged as one of the best."

Newcastle lost the penalty count 11-2 in the first half and might have been justified if they felt peeved. Andrew played a leading role in the victory, which extends Newcastle's League record to ten wins in ten matches and keeps them at the head of the table. His out-of-hand kicking was as accurate as ever and he missed only one of five kicks at goal.

He linked well and created the opening try when, in quite un-Andrew-like style, he danced through a gap near a scrum, dummied, dashed 20 yards and put in Tugamala. Northampton defenders had been fooled into expecting another up-and-under.

"The QBH could have gone through that gap. It was just that I was a bit more manoeuvrable," Andrew said.

The narrowness of the victory augurs well for another meeting at Franklin's Gardens on February 28 in the Teley's Bitter Cup. "It's going to be a huge game," Dean Ryan, the Newcastle captain, said. Ryan, who was as abrasive as ever leading his pack, despite receiving a yellow card for up-ending an opponent with an illegal tackle in the fourteenth minute.

Northampton claimed a moral victory, pointing to what appeared to be perfectly valid tries - supported by the club match video - by Jason Chandler and Matt Stewart in the final hectic phase.

The referee's strict handling opened the way for Grayson to - show his goal-kicking skills. He collected his first penalty in the third minute and chalked up another three for a 12-0 lead before the try by Tugamala. Andrew converted and added a penalty to leave Northampton leading 12-10 at the interval.

A series of forward rushes created the position from which Naylor darted over to give Newcastle the lead. Andrew kicked the penalty before Johnson converted. Andrew had the last word with a penalty.

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50 دنانير الاصل

Callard keeps his nerve to secure historic triumph in Heineken Cup final Bath dig deep into well of courage



Callard, right, and Regan hold the trophy aloft in front of Bath's 6,000 travelling supporters after their victory in Bordeaux. Photograph: Bob Edme

HOME	AWAY
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FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN BORDEAUX

THOSE who doubted should have remembered that Bath do not lose cup finals. That 82 minutes had passed before Jonathan Callard's fourth penalty goal hit the posts and gave Bath the lead for the first time in the final of the Heineken Cup at the Stade Lescaur here on Saturday will not change the line in the history books that record their status as the first English champions of Europe.

The advertising hoardings in Bordeaux put the final alongside Shakespeare, Brecht, the Andalusian Opera Company and the spirits of the African rain forests as January attractions, but there was nothing lyrical in Bath's victory. It was, instead, a triumph for the old Bath: for character, for doggedness, for sheer bloody-mindedness, which sent them whooping and hollering to the end of the stadium where their faithful followers, some 6,000 of them alongside 30,000 stunned Frenchmen, made their salutations.

But there was skill, too, far more than Brive were prepared to display in defence of their crown. How ironic that the pre-match publicity featured Victor Uhogu and Sebastian Carrat, a prop and a wing, as illustrations of their respective clubs. In the event, Brive tried to grind Bath down and failed, while the only prospect that Carrat and his brother, Jerome — perhaps the fastest pair of wings in the country — had of seeing the ball was if Bath kicked it to them.

Bath, in contrast, sought to put the ball through the hands and their try. Callard's again, as he scored all his club's points — was as powerful effective as they could have wished. It was also completely unexpected, given what had been happening for an hour

Brive had all the possession and territory that they could have wished for, the points cushion and, finally, the set-piece from which they could have made the game safe.

Yet whereas they were so positive from the first moment against Leicester in the final last year, here they failed. They chose to lock their glorious attacking talents away and how significant it was that neither of their coaches, Laurent Seigne and Pierre Montbrun, appeared for the post-match press conference, only they will know. They led 15-6 at the interval, but had already contributed to their own downfall by playing such inhibited rugby.

The scrambling of our pack on our own line, when they managed to turn the ball over, was a warning, a warning point, Andy Robinson, the Bath director of rugby, said: "Six times the five-metre scrum went down early in

the second half. On the fourth, Bath were penalised, but Brive chose to scrum again, and on the sixth, David Laperne, the Brive tight-head prop, introduced from the sidelines during the sequence, was penalised for boring in.

"If Brive had scored then, I couldn't see us coming back," Robinson said. "I was ready to bring on Matt Perry and Fred Mendez, but our attitude was exactly the same as in all those finals we have played in before."

Instead, Bath, now with the sun in their eyes but the wind at their backs, went to the other end and scored the try that took them to within two points of Brive. Redman won the lineout, Carrat hoisted the ball and Guscott plunged for the line, forcing a penalty and a Bath scrum five metres out. Lyle picked up and crashed to the open side, Nicol and Guscott took it on and

Callard was left with an open line and the game's only try.

That Penaud dropped a goal to go with Lamaison's five first-half penalties was not significant because the moral force had passed to Bath. Callard cancelled



Callard claims his try

it out with his third penalty before the final minutes of drama erased the knowledge that, as a game played in perfect conditions, this had not been worthy of a 35 million-strong television audience.

Had Penaud found touch as the game entered injury time, Brive would probably have won. He did not and Adebayo caught the ball in his own half before kicking ahead. There was no need for Manhes, the Brive lock, to charge into him several seconds later, but that cost Brive their title.

Callard, with an angled 20-metre kick, remained calm, recollected the routine of years and scored the goal.

Rugby Football Board has a working party looking into it — but Lamaison sent his penalty wide. However, Nicol knocked the ball back over his own line, giving Brive a five-metre scrum. Arbizu lined himself up for a dropped goal just to the right of the posts, but it screwed away and the smile, as Tony Swift, their chief executive, said, was back on the face of Bath rugby after so many days of domestic disappointment.

SCORES: Bath: Penalty goals: Lamaison 5 (1st, 10, 17, 30, 40). Dropped goal: Penaud (33). Bath: Try: Callard (59). Conversion: Callard. Penalty goals: Callard 4 (19, 23, 66, 82). SCORING SEQUENCE (Bath first): 3-0, 6-0, 9-0, 9-3, 12-3, 12-6, 15-6 (half-time), 15-12, 18-13, 18-16, 18-18. BRIVE: A Penaud, J Carrat, C Lamaison, D Veronique, S Carrat (capt), S Vans, T Whyn, L Arco, P Caldeira, D Casades, L Tward, R Oleszy (capt), D Laperne, S E, E August, V Manhes, L von der Linden, O Maigre, F Dubost (capt), R Soriano, T.

Colomiers have the final word

COLOMIERS thrashed Agen 43-5 in Toulouse yesterday to win the European Conference final and enjoy the biggest success in the club's history.

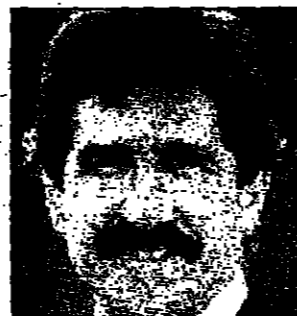
Colomiers, from just outside Toulouse in south-western France, ran in seven tries to Agen's one and were quick to get off the mark, Jerome Siourac scoring a fine try in the first 15 minutes. Three minutes later, an attack down the centre by Herve Marant set up Yannick Bru and Jean-Marc Lorenzi, who just failed to touch down. In the next move, the ball was worked to Bernard De Giusti, who dived over for Colomiers second try.

Agen tried gamely to resist the relentless pressure, but were continually pushed back. Nevertheless, in one flurry after winning a lineout, the Agen pack powered forward and Christophe Porcu burst away to score Agen's only try. However, one-way traffic was soon resumed. Marc Bibout scored in the 31st minute after a textbook move by the Colomiers forwards and De Giusti went over for his second in the 37th minute. Sebastien Roque collected Colomiers' fifth try a minute after the interval for a 31-5 lead. Further scores from Yannick Bru and Fabien Galtie, plus a fourth conversion from Mickael Carre in the last minute, completed the rout.

Negative equity proves too great for Brive to repay

THE occasion of the Heineken Cup final is improving with age — a pity, it must be said, that the contest, as witnessed at the Stade Lescaur in Bordeaux, is not the festival mood that was present in Cardiff last year and much in evidence over the weekend is of a quality that everyone without exception wishes to maintain. Rugby's sociability remains in evidence, despite the fear that the new professionalism might destroy it.

GERALD DAVIES



In Bordeaux

"The bonds" in all their various meanings seemed to be an every corner and there was no mistaking their all-pervading presence. If the stiff wigs were of the Bath colours, the painted faces belonged to both camps. But the black-and-white flags of Brive vastly outnumbered the blue, black and white of the West Country club. Bath's modest presence in the capacity crowd of 36,000 was overwhelmed for the whole 80 minutes of the game by a ratio of five to one.

However, when the final whistle came, there was no mistaking who was in the ascendancy and the "Aller Brive" that had downed the almost apologetic amending of English rugby's anthem, *Swing Low Sweet Chariot*, limited to one tiny corner of the ground, had been banished to be succeeded by a triumphant "Alex Bath". Outside the ground, the car horns that had disturbed the early-morning air, which nor-

mally echo along the boulevards when the sun has gone down and when French clubs' spirits are up, were eerily silent. Callard's pressured penalty in the third minute of injury time, after his team had been behind until that moment, had stunned the crowd into stillness.

In the final analysis, it will be left to Brive to contemplate the manner in which they contributed to lose the match rather than Bath how they manoeuvred to win it. In victory, Bath drew on all their traditional reserves of stubborn spirit not to let go when all appeared to be lost. With their last gasp, they were richly rewarded while Brive were left hopelessly disconsolate. The French had only themselves to blame. Brive were in negative, defensive mode, in emphatic contrast to the mood they struck a year ago, when, against Leicester, they embarked on their first touch of the ball on an imaginative display of attacking ebullience. On Saturday, they played as if to defend their title rather than going out to win the cup for a second time. Laurent Seigne, their coach, had explained in the programme notes that "the big difference in the European tournament is that teams play to win, whereas in the [French] league the main objective is not to lose". In his moment of tranquillity, he might care to conclude that, as things stood in Bordeaux, his players may not have understood what he meant.

That his team played so negatively could not be better illustrated than when, in the seventeenth minute of the second half, Brive attempted at half a dozen scrums to force Bath into such disarray as to entice the referee to award a penalty try. Jim Fleming was not to be drawn. It was the turning-point. Not long after that, Callard, playing such an important role, scored the critical try to bring his club within winning distance.

Bath, though they committed far too many errors and were so uncertain of their own possession, were able to create more telling movements than their opponents. From the moment that they failed to take the ball cleanly from the first kick-off to the number of kickable penalties that were awarded against them, their game was altogether too fragile to contemplate any real hope of victory. Yet they struggled manfully to remain in the game.

That victory finally came their way will have surprised them as much as it did all those who had long wished that the French stronghold on the Heineken Cup might be broken. With all the difficulties among English clubs and the query that hangs over their presence in the tournament next year, it remains to be seen what the future holds and whether indeed Bath will be present next year to defend their title.

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THE TIMES AIR FRANCE TOKEN 7

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CHANGING TIMES

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Grayson has ally in Andre

ice

lents

Getting into shape to take on true ice warriors

With the best-laid plans going the way of worst-laid wickets, I found myself not basking in the satellite-linked sunshine of the Caribbean, as expected, but enjoying the ice and snow of all things Alpine. Just as well really — there are still five Test matches to play, but there are only five days left before the eighteenth Winter Olympic Games begin in Nagano, Japan. Last chance, then, for a bit of late revision.

Personally, I am feeling reasonably pleased with my preparation for the BBC's 100 hours of coverage and Eurosport's round-the-clock alternative. Having immersed myself in the European ice skating championships and alternated enough live skiing

on Eurosport with the much-improved *Ski Sunday* to know my Schifferer from my Seizinger, I am as up with the form as I ever have been. I even know that the ice hockey tournament in Japan is expected to be the best ever, although it took a couple of minutes of *Trans World Sport* on Channel 4 on Saturday morning to remind me why. The dulcet-toned Sue Carpenter knew — it's because the stars of the United States' National Hockey League are going for the first time.

That little nugget was gleaned while Eurosport took a commercial break during its live, early-morning coverage of the bob-skeleton world championships in St Moritz. In terms of pre-Olympic prep-



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

aration, this was probably a sport too far. As Johnnie Woodall, who commentates on anything involving some sort of sled for the Paris-based channel, explained, bob-skeleton — like luge, only head-first — doesn't become a Winter Olympic sport until the 2002 Games in Salt Lake City.

Never mind, there's always this year's new arrival to look forward to, curling, where any possible lack of excitement is more than made up for by a realistic hope for a British medal. Dougie Donnelly does the commentary honours for the BBC, while Archie Macpherson, better known as the voice of football for Eurosport, becomes the voice of curling for the duration. It's a juxtaposition of experience and Scot-

tish accents that makes me smile — but only until I remember how good David Vine managed to make the weightlifting in Atlanta. There's always one surprise. Apart from reviving expensive, painful but wonderfully exhilarating memories of the Cresta Run, the professional reason for watching the bob-skeleton coverage was to re-acquaint myself with the challenges facing BBC Out-

side Broadcasts, which, in a remarkable coup, has been appointed host broadcaster for the bobsleigh and luge events for the second Winter Olympics running. Some 34 cameras will be involved in Nagano, including eight of the "whip pan" cameras that the Swiss host-broadcaster used so effectively at St Moritz.

More unusual innovations include the "ice-car", a retractable mini-camera mounted in the over-hang of curve 14, and three "worm-cams", buried in the refrigerated track.

But innovation doesn't have to be high-tech to be effective, as the Swiss showed again on Saturday. Having the leader stand, unhelmated, on the winner's podium until displaced, was an idea that any broadcaster covering a sport that combines time-trials with identity-concealing, protective-clothing might like to adopt. Television's last great challenge, particularly at the Winter Olympics, is to turn these latest-suited mannequins into human beings.

With hindsight, it is easy, as the BBC showed with a 90-minute retrospective, *The Essential Winter Olympics*. The beginning and end were familiar, but wonderfully executed. Robin Cousins kicked things off, recalling both his own and John Curry's gold-medal achievements and watching his medal-clinching, free-programme from Lake Placid for the first time.

At the other end, of course, were Torvill and Dean, who, helped by a bank of television monitors, breathed new life into the familiar stories of *Bolero* and *Take the Music...* If that didn't get you, then the footage of rows of United Nations military vehicles parked under the scoreboard that once had a row of perfect sixes alongside "Sarajevo 84" should have.

What came in between was equally impressive. Some was familiar, such as the stories of Klammer, Witt and Tomba; other sections less so, such as that recalling Mike Eruzione, who scored the winning goal for the United States against the Soviet Union in the ice hockey final in 1980, or Johann Olav Koss, the Norwegian speed-skater, who took three gold medals and set three world records in front of his home crowd four years ago.

The opening ceremony will be shown live by BBC and Eurosport in the early hours of Saturday, while those still in need of a bit of last-minute cramming should watch Nagano: *The Grandstand Guide to the Winter Olympics*, on Friday evening. The curling starts on Sunday night.

'Yes, it plays into a disrupter's hands if you stop the game. But think what it says to continue it.'

Football unable to tackle real life

My assumption that football was merely a branch of the entertainment business took a serious knock back on Saturday afternoon. For I was at Portsmouth's Fratton Park stadium, at a match now notorious for the assault by a Sheffield United fan on an assistant referee. Yes, it's true: a pole-axed linesman is evidence enough that, to certain unstable people at least, football is something more than a game.

Yet what shocked me more, in a way, was the way that the game proceeded forthwith. A reserve official took the felled linesman's place, flourishing his flag; a free kick was taken; the whistle blew for half-time. "But we'll be sent home now, right?" I asked, puzzled and upset. "They'll stop the game?" But blank looks greeted this unfamiliar reasoning. The game goes on, you see. It does not give in to thugs. And besides, football's magisterial due process is far too important to let such trifling delicacies interfere.

"Who's in goal now?" my fellow reporters needed to know. "Is that Shaun Derry?" I'm not kidding, the poor prone linesman had not yet been stretched off and this was already going on. *Who's in goal? Good grief, who cares?* I felt suddenly a keen sympathy for Mrs Abraham Lincoln, when they asked her: "Yes, but apart from that, Mrs President, what did you think of the play?"

However, I'm not starting at the beginning. What happened on Saturday was this. With the score standing at 1-1 just before half-time, a sterling Portsmouth attack from that on-leon Leicester scally-wag, Steve Claridge, bowling straight down the centre of the pitch towards the uncovered Milton End (and the visiting fans), was obstructed by Simon Tracey, the United goalkeeper, who was, fatefully, outside his area.



LYNNE TRUSS

The luckless Tracey sprinted out from his goal as if it were on fire, spread himself and committed the offence of hand ball. At which point the whistle blew and there was uproar. Portsmouth players yelled, stamped and pointed, the crowd bawled and surged and, after consulting his linesman (the usual disapproving boos accompanying this), Mark Halsey, the referee, ordered Tracey off.

All eyes were then on Tracey's momentous departure (shirt removed and glumly handed over) when the assistant referee, Edward Martin, suddenly fell forwards, hit the ground — one leg straight, the other bent — and didn't move. Clearly, he had been struck from behind, or coughed. The shock was dreadful. Medics rushed to his aid and stewards manhandled the struggling figure of a man in a denim jacket and Sheffield United shirt. The players raged, but, above all, Mr Martin continued to lie still.

The background to all this unpleasantness, of course, was Alan Ball's red-letter day — erstwhile Portsmouth manager returning to the only club that's ever (temporarily) flourished under his influence. He had hardly expected to spend his first press conference condemning a thug. His job was to renew the spirit of Portsmouth, a club whose seasonal performance graph has flattered at the very bottom of first division.

Portsmouth fans still sing "Play up, Pompey!" it's rather moving, but the notice that says "No tickets or confetti in the stands" betrays only a cruel sense of humour breaking out in the Fratton Park sign-writing department. No, since Terry Venables left, things have looked bleak. The club safe is home to two mice, a few crumbs and a spider called Gerald. A demonstration had been mooted for half-time on Saturday, which thankfully did not take place.



Whole new Ball game: the Portsmouth manager's return provokes an outbreak of selective amnesia among the club's fans. Photograph: Ashley Coombes

I instead, the fans greeted "Bally's" return with cheers and ovations, thus confirming my recent theory that selective amnesia is the first requirement of football supporting. For Ball is an unlikely saviour, by all accounts. His visitations to football clubs have an effect familiar from the Book of Revelation, with a dash of Agent Orange. Look around for clubs that bear the tell-tale scars: charred remains, skulls on sticks, weeping. It's said that if Hieronymus Bosch were still in business, he'd hitch his wagon to Alastair Ball. Kicking off with a match against Sheffield United was going to be a blessing in disguise, however. Because while Portsmouth were stuck in 24th position and United basking in the sunny, turquoise waters of fourth place, an appalling injury count for the Blades made their line-up B-list, and beatable. Ball was all set to look a hero. If only his glorious comeback had not been overtaken by events.

But bad luck happens. Back at those events, the second half was brilliant. If goalless. There was no question that the show would not go on. Take the Heysel Stadium disaster in 1985, I was reminded. The game proceeded even there —

and this incident was nothing by comparison with that.

But I don't know. The fact remains that there is a dividing line between football and real life and the line was vividly highlighted on Saturday. However big it gets, football is still a form of entertainment — its drama fabricated for the purpose of spectacle and catharsis. Yes, it involves the maximum passion and commitment of talented men, or it wouldn't be any good — but it isn't real. It had to be invented and it's played by rules. Take the basic premise that 11 men from "Portsmouth" line up against "Sheffield". Well, that's a laugh, for a start.

But then a /linesman is assaulted and that's as real as you like. That's not tackling; it's assault. The injury to that linesman breaks the spell and throws the rest of the event into a very unflattering light. Perhaps that's why I thought they should, for pity's sake, stop the game on Saturday. Not just out of deference to the injured man, but because when a game gets this far out of hand, it should remind you that games are optional.

Yes, it plays into a disrupter's hands if you stop the game. But think what it says to continue it. It says that you endorse what the disrupter thinks — that a game of football is more important than an act of violence. No, from where I'm looking, continuing the game plays right into his hands, as well.

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

SPORTS LETTERS

Lessons for Britain from the Super Bowl

From Mr Chris Bray

Sir, In watching the Super Bowl this week, the one thing that struck me above all else was the efficiency of the refereeing. The team of officials worked in perfect harmony throughout the game and, as a consequence, did not make a single error during the three-hour spectacle. The communication of decisions was clear and concise. Technological support was available, but not required on this occasion.

Contrast this with football, where it becomes more apparent with every televised game that one referee plus two assistants are insufficient to control the game. The number of "offsides" which are not in fact offside is of growing concern. The fact that the referee and his assistants are not really a team but merely three individuals trying to do their respective jobs means that they are not used to best advantage. Technology is available and should be used.

Surely the time has come to undertake a fundamental review of how a football match should be controlled? Staying with the status quo will only lead to further dissatisfaction among spectators, players and managers alike.

Yours faithfully
CHRIS BRAY,
18, Glendower Road, East Sheen, SW14 8NY.

Newcastle snub

From Mr Ian Eagle

Sir, The FA Cup is seen by many as the last bastion of sanity in the English game, a competition where the minors can realise their dreams against their football heroes.

Tragically, that eminently magical, romantic notion has been tarnished too. Kenny Dalglish's inability to find the good grace and decency to congratulate the Stevenage Borough team of part-timers for holding his team of highly-paid stars to a draw was a great shame. It would be most gratifying to football supporters everywhere to see him redeem himself in the replay at St James' Park.

Yours faithfully
JON EAGLE,
16 Buckleys, Great Baddow, Chelmsford CM2 7DY.

Chester glory

From Mr Gerald Ellis

Sir, While I agree with Brian Glanville's assertion that the FA Cup is the only "cup to cheer" in modern times, the old League Cup did have its moments.

I refer in particular to when Chester City, then of the old fourth division, reached the semi-finals in the mid-1970s. After they had disposed of Walsall and Blackpool in the

Motsonisms

From Mr Brian Reynolds

Sir, During a recent Charnel 4 *Football Italia* match between Bologna and Juventus, the commentator pronounced, in reference to the two Bologna forwards: "It's a commentator's nightmare when you have two tall, thin, blond strikers playing together." Well, how outrageous, but so far no clamour. I'm sure all blond, thin strikers have not quite yet recovered their composure enough to write and complain. This Motsonism is spreading!

Yours sincerely
BRIAN REYNOLDS,
53 Firroft Drive, Hucknall, Notts NG15 6RW.

Test fiasco in Jamaica

From Mr Anthony Holland

Sir, It amazes me that the Jamaican cricket authorities did not make use of a bowling machine to test the new wicket at regular intervals since it was retained. This was a farce that could easily have been avoided.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY HOLLAND,
Windleham Manor, Windleham, Surrey GU20 6BW.

Ten-yard rule

From Mr John A. Barnard

Sir, Mr Griffin (Sports Letters, January 26) suggests that football might usefully adopt some of the modern technical aids now employed by referees in rugby league. There is another practice, this time from rugby union, which would greatly improve the round-ball game. In the union code, dissent from the referee's decision to award a free kick, any back-chat from a player or any attempt to delay play immediately results in the kick being taken ten yards nearer the opponents' tryline. More dissent, another ten-yard advance and so on. This procedure, with one minor variation, could be adopted very easily by football and should quell the scenes in which referees are surrounded, hustled and abused by players objecting to a decision. Because of the difference between the codes the advance would be towards the centre of the opponents' goal, rather

Test fiasco in Jamaica

From Mr Andrew Palfreeman

Sir, In view of the events at Sabina Park, perhaps those

This week in THE TIMES

- Tomorrow: Has Jeremy Guscott done enough to be included in England's Five Nations squad?
- Thursday: Stevenage against Newcastle at St James' Park — the most intriguing FA Cup match of the competition so far.
- Friday: England's rearranged Test in Trinidad — follow Alec Lee's first day report.
- Football Saturday: Unparalleled columnists — Paul Leboeuf and Danny Baker.

Handwritten note: 11:50

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SAILING

Dalton sets pace amid Auckland's light winds

By Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent

HAVING arrived in 40-knot headwinds three weeks ago, the Whitbread Round the World Race fleet set sail from Auckland at the beginning of leg five yesterday in light winds that blew intermittently during the first few hours, resulting in continuous changes in fleet order. With the Whitbread 60s once again heavily loaded with provisions and spares for the toughest leg of the race, through the Southern Ocean to Brazil, a passage that is expected to take the leading crews around 23 days, the crews made slow progress down the Rangitoto Channel and out to sea. David Houghton, the meteorologist with Lawrie Smith's Silk Cut campaign, predicted a tricky few days ahead. "The entire fleet will have to break through this high pressure ridge before they hit stronger winds," he said. "Once through the ridge, they should look into a strong Southern Ocean depression, which should see them blasting towards Cape Horn. For the next 48 hours, it's going to be a lottery." Silk Cut, with Vincent Geake on board as navigator instead of Steve Hayes, was the first to cross the start line in light tail winds but with a strong ebb tide under the boats that encouraged skippers to hold back for fear of being swept over early, as happened to seven crews at the Auckland restart in the last Whitbread. But Smith was quickly overtaken by boats to windward of him and it was Grant Dalton, on Merit Cup, followed by Gunnar Krantz's Swedish Match, who led the British boat at the first turning mark. Periods of calm and sea breeze followed and, by midnight, the leader, Merit Cup, was running along at just over nine knots, having reduced her distance to the leg finish at São Sebastião by just 80 miles in 12 hours. Close behind Dalton was the American boat, Chesnie Racing, which is being skippered on this leg by Dee Smith. There was then a gap of some six miles to the overall

Warming to the lure of a winter of contentment

Brian Clarke on the appeal of fishing Patagonia's glorious rivers

It is always nice to be able to put a friend on to fish, to be able to guide him precisely to a place big trout will be. To try to do it in winter, of course, might seem a little premature. Given that we are deep into the close season, it could suggest the criminal as well.



The river wild: Jorge Trucco fishes the magical Mallo in the shadow of Lanin, the 12,000ft volcano

Yet when he rang last week and asked, I did not hesitate. "You want to be just downstream from the trees come close to the water." If the water was normal height, I told him, a spit of shingle would mark the place: He should wade out from that and work downstream. "Oh, yes," I added, wanting to deny him no detail. "A snow-capped volcano will be over your left shoulder. And don't photograph the gash. They'll object if you do." Patagonia is a big, wild place. I wanted to be exact. He needed to know the score. I don't know how Peter will get on, because he arrives today; but he is fishing the rivers I fished and, if he can get to the river and the pool that I described, he will have his eyes opened. Like many people new to anglers, he has assumed that the trout is a fish of the northern hemisphere alone. Originally, it was. But both the rainbow trout, from the United States, and the brown trout, from Europe, have travelled well. Thanks to the imagination of anglers in the back half of the 19th century and the first part of this one, both species are to be found in all five continents. Because the seasons in the southern

hemisphere are the converse of ours, trout fishing is a year-round sport. It is possible to go further than Patagonia for trout fishing, but it is difficult to find better. Thanks to a combination of circumstances, cold water trout have thrived in the rivers that wind through the arid, shimmering, over-baked plains far to the south west of Buenos Aires. One reason is that the water is snow-melt from the Andes. Another is that the river beds are alive with small crabs locally called pancora. Pure, cold water and a constant source of rich food have produced abundant, big wild trout. The

pancora is the starter and main course of the average day's feeding. In the evening, the fish come to the surface for dessert. If I had to pick a single evening as the most spectacular of my dry-fly career, it would have to be the one I spent on the Mallo River, in Patagonia, 30 miles or so into the wilderness from the small town of Junin de Los Andes. Jorge Trucco deserves the credit. Not only is he one of the best-known fly anglers in Argentina, but he also runs a professional guiding service for anglers in the wilderness and he knows the Mallo like the inside of his fly-box. I was just passing through

but he made time to join me. He took me to the pool I told Peter about. It lies in the long shadow of Lanin, at 12,000 feet the same height as Mount Fuji and nearly as perfectly shaped. Not much happened at first. I caught a couple of late spawners lying downstream from a bush, then all fell quiet until the sun began to sink. Gradually the snow on Lanin turned ice-cream pink and a coronet of cloud condensed over the top. The shadows began to reach. The first sedge lifted. It is difficult to describe the intensity and violence of the rise that followed, but the water boiled. Small trout, medium trout, big trout, utterly unreasonable trout, began to swirl and flash and hump and roll. The flies were thick enough to graze the sky. Every few yards of river had a feeding fish in it.

To say it was easy has to be a statement of truth, given the result, but it also understates the problems. The river was fast and rumpling, which made staying in touch with the upstream dry-fly difficult. The fish were on the move. We wanted the better fish and so cast selectively. There was a downstream wind that made precision a problem. The fading light added the pressure of time. Yet, in part because of the sheer number of fish, we had half-a-dozen trout apiece in a little over 30 minutes before the river god blew the whistle and they all went down. I had nothing under 2lb and my best weighed more than 3lb - all wild fish, and all returned. We both touched bigger fish and one unseen monster Jorge hooked 40 yards away took his line hissing past me before coming unstuck.

When the light had gone, we drove back to the ranch house under a star-pickled sky trailing an unseen skirt of dust along the dirt road. The next day, I moved on. Patagonia is a long way to go for fishing, but many do - a lot of Americans, plenty of Europeans, quite a few Brits. They go to escape the winter and the long close season. They go because they can fish for big wild trout in a spectacular landscape under a blazing sun. They go to fish rivers such as the magical Mallo, the Calefu, the Chimehuin and the Colla Cura, among others. They are not all wealthy. Some, like Peter, go because a building society has given them a windfall and they want to double its interest. If mine did the same, I'd be back like a shot. It would beat thinking about it at home. Brian Clarke's Angling column appears on the first Monday of each month.

Greensward girls over the moon with success

By John Goodbody

THE bar of the Half Moon pub in Rayleigh, Essex is like the boot room at Liverpool football club. It is here that the PE department of Greensward School dissects the performances of its teams. After a series of successes in sports such as athletics and swimming, the cluster of teachers and coaches is now particularly focused on the performance of the girls' basketball team. Over the next month, four different age groups will compete in the last eight of the national championships, demonstrating the unusual standard of the sport at the grant-maintained school in Hockley. There is little doubt that basketball has become hugely popular among boys in Great Britain's schools. It is fast-moving, everyone is active and the sport has the glamorous role models from the National Basketball Association (NBA) in the United States. Now this interest is taking off among girls and the popularity of netball, the more

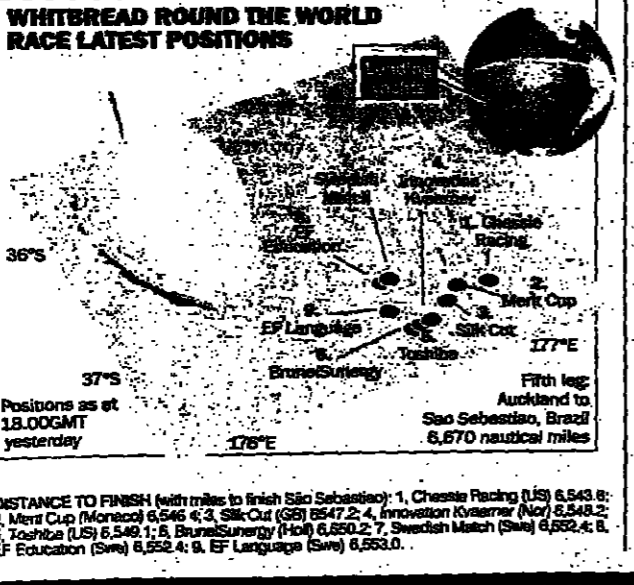
traditional sport that requires many similar skills, appears under threat. "Netball is a bit sissy," Claire Hayward, 14, a pupil at Greensward, said. "There is no body contact and only certain people can shoot. In basketball, a player can do everything." Ten years ago, the Greensward School, a mixed comprehensive of 1,392 pupils, introduced basketball to boys through John Syrnal, former coach of the masters. The game became part of the PE curriculum for both sexes and the boys reached two national finals. The girls have followed with zest. The under-19s play their quarter-final match on Friday, followed by ties involving the under-16, under-15 and under-14 age groups. The Essex under-15 county squad, which is 15-strong and includes nine Greensward girls, is also in the last eight.

Tony Mescal, head of PE, believes that netball and basketball complement each other. "We play both. Many girls enjoy netball and the fitness and technical aspects are often similar," he said. "The girls have no qualms about playing with boys in basketball, although boys here are sensitive and sensible about the physical differences." The boys help develop the girls' ability; the younger girls watch the older ones and are inspired. The teams practise before school, in their lunch break, in the early evenings and in holidays on the one

suitable facility. However, soon they will be able to use the new sports hall being built, in which there will be a special floor suitable for basketball. Martin Clark, director of creative arts, the department which includes PE, said: "It will transform our facilities." For the moment, the teams, which include girls such as Hannah Wilhelmy, 13, and Sarah Hopkins, 14, both Eng-

land squad members, practise in relays. Wilhelmy, who has also represented Essex indoors at sprinting and the shot, took up the sport because her brother started playing and they had a ring erected in their back garden. "My main job now is to take rebounds," she said. "I practise shooting as often as I can, aiming for the back of the ring." Greensward has had valu-

able sponsorship from Alan Simpson, a solicitor, and P.R. Hills Roofing, but the frequent trips are financially demanding. Mescal said: "It never hit us that we would get so many teams through." The girls' optimism is intense. As Wilhelmy said: "We have to prove to the boys that we can do it." Photograph, page 37



SPORT IN SCHOOLS logo and text.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE advertisement with bridge game details.

KEENE on CHESS advertisement with chess game details and diagrams.

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD section containing various sports fixtures and results for the week.

RACING: SEE MORE BUSINESS SETS GOLD STANDARD

Danoli injury casts doubt on Festival challenge

By CHRIS MCGRATH

HORSES find quite enough ways of supporting themselves without the malignant intervention of man. The only crooked aspect of Danoli's absence from the Hennessy Gold Cup at Leopardstown on Sunday is his off-fore tendon, which he contrived to kick with his own hind-leg when out walking over the weekend. Not only is he unable to repeat last year's memorable success, his return to Cheltenham and the rest of his season seem in equal peril.

With King Boy already out and The Grey Monk doubtful, it seems unlikely that Leopardstown can match the outstanding Festival rival posted by See More Business at Cheltenham on Saturday. At the end of a week of anguish for racing, his Pillar Chase success tangibly restored some of the sport's self-belief.

There is, unhappily, no prospect of lasting respite. The arrest of three jockeys last Tuesday, by police investigating allegations of doping and

race-fixing, has aged the racing community. Despite its chaotic integrity, the scandal already seems wearily familiar. Forced into candid inspection, years have passed inside a week.

Unhappily for Jamie Osborne, Dean Gallagher and Leighton Aspell — all released without charge — time will weigh more heavily still if they cannot persuade the Jockey Club to restore their suspended licences at a special hearing on Wednesday.

They have been accused of nothing, yet the Jockey Club has decided that the sensational fact of their arrest might affect confidence in racing's integrity. The riders, however, have been bailed until April 29. How long can the Jockey Club deny them a livelihood, before the cloud can be said to have dispersed in the estimation of the public?

After all, there can be ignorance even when the facts are fully available. As it is, the Jockey Club's respect for popular suspicions — which boil down to the sentiment that

there is no smoke without fire — may only serve to thicken the clouds polluting the sport. Should the suspensions be lifted, even of a jockey's strike, will doubtless become more earnest.

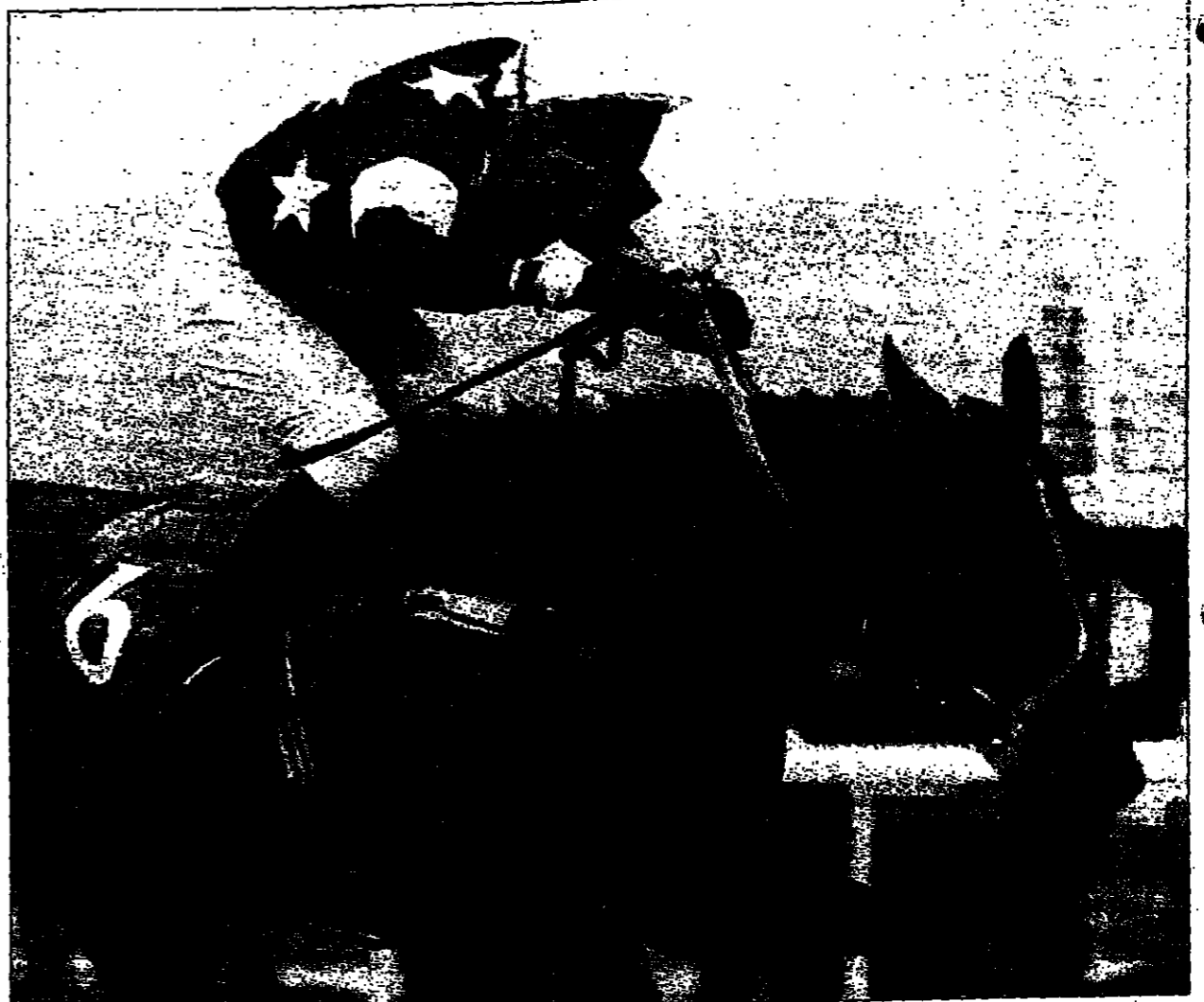
If racing is to get back up from its knees, it can seek inspiration from See More Business. It is only three years ago, this Saturday, that he contested his first race, a Larkhill point-to-point. Corresponding naïveté at his fences had delayed the fulfilment of his talents until then. George VI Chase at Christmas. Then on Saturday, a mistake all but flung Timmy Murphy to earth at the fourth-last fence as Cyborgo stole what seemed a decisive initiative.

See More Business promptly conjured the acceleration to overwhelm Rough Quest and then Cyborgo. Paul Nicholls, his trainer, said yesterday: "That's the great thing. He stays so well, but also has a devastating turn of foot. Up to now, he has never been able to

use it, but this was the furthest he has gone, on the right track. He has come a long way in a short time. Because of his inexperience, he is only now learning how to use himself, but he's not a great big horse, and will never be an extravagant jumper."

Nicholls can take pride in his six years with a licence. He has been favoured with some lavish patronage, but faced pressure in equal measure. More will follow now, with the sponsor making See More Business 7-2 for the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup. Those bookies still going 7-1 deserve plenty of business as See More Business has set an authentic gold standard.

Danoli, meanwhile, sometimes seems to find his status as an Irish folk hero too much of a burden, even for his sturdy frame. After a slow return to fitness, this eleventh-hour mishap must madden Tom Foley, the horse is not lame, but there is too much bruising to run this weekend. "It's likely that Cheltenham is out too," Foley said.



Murphy and See More Business power home in the Pillar Property Investments Chase at Cheltenham on Saturday

SOUTHWELL RACECARD table with columns for race number, time, and horse names.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD table with columns for race number, time, and horse names.

12.45 ANTRIM HANDICAP (Div 1: £2,450; 2m) (9 runners) table with columns for race number, time, and horse names.

FORM FOCUS section for the 12.45 Antrim Handicap.

1.15 LONDONDERRY HANDICAP (Div 1: £2,083; 1m) (10 runners) table with columns for race number, time, and horse names.

FORM FOCUS section for the 1.15 Londonderry Handicap.

1.45 ANTRIM HANDICAP (Div 1: £2,450; 2m) (9 runners) table with columns for race number, time, and horse names.

FORM FOCUS section for the 1.45 Antrim Handicap.

2.15 DOWN CLAIMING STAKES (€2,085; 6f) (9 runners) table with columns for race number, time, and horse names.

FORM FOCUS section for the 2.15 Down Claiming Stakes.

2.45 ARMAGH HANDICAP (€4,484; 6f) (10 runners) table with columns for race number, time, and horse names.

FORM FOCUS section for the 2.45 Armagh Handicap.

3.15 FERMANAGH MAIDEN STAKES (€2,085; 7f) (9 runners) table with columns for race number, time, and horse names.

FORM FOCUS section for the 3.15 Fermanagh Maiden Stakes.

3.45 TYRONE SELLING HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £1,738; 1m) (13 runners) table with columns for race number, time, and horse names.

FORM FOCUS section for the 3.45 Tyrone Selling Handicap.

4.15 LONDONDERRY HANDICAP (Div 1: €2,083; 1m) (9 runners) table with columns for race number, time, and horse names.

FORM FOCUS section for the 4.15 Londonderry Handicap.

Horace provides tonic for Wales

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

A HORSE called Horace landed the men's open at the Thurlof meeting on Saturday, and provided a tonic for his rider, William Wales.

"We've had a bit of bad luck lately," Wales, who farms at Binham, close to the Norfolk coast, said. Wales cracked his sternum in a fall after Christmas and his wife, Alex, suffered concussion and a dislocated collarbone in a schooling accident on Tuesday.

Preparation for the ride on Horace did not go that smoothly either — Wales spent a freezing Friday evening in a barn with a calving cow because his dairyman was having a weekend off. "I was up with the cow until gone lam," Wales said. He added cheerfully of his injury: "The sternum broke from side to side, not top to bottom, so it didn't take long to heal."

Horace upset the favourite, Celtic Spark, with the former hurdler Desperate, making his pointing debut, in third. Wales said his winner: "He met the last three bang on and ran up the hill strongly. He's 13 now, but is still eligible for novice hunter chases and deserves a chance."

Simon Sporborg's good

start to the season continued with victories in the confined and restricted races on Shake Five and Rob Mine respectively, taking his tally to six, one ahead of Simon Andrews, who rode a double on Gardenia's Song in the maiden and Broadway Swinger in the intermediate.

Andrews, a Luton farmer, trains Gardenia Song, who was having his third start in as many weeks, while the Charlotte Cooke-trained Broadway Swinger won comfortably and is a useful seven-year-old.

RICHARD EVANS table with columns for horse name, jockey, and odds.

Fip Jones was back in hospital after a fall from Blue Raven in the ladies' open, won by Coral Grissell on Netherland. Jones suffered bruising to a kidney and, assuming the horsebox driver to head back to Wales. However, the green light to leave the hospital several hours later meant Jones, in some discomfort, had a difficult journey by train and coach via London before reaching her Caerphilly home at midnight.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES section containing various legal notices, public notices, and notices of intended divorces.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES section containing various legal notices, public notices, and notices of intended divorces.

PLUMPTON

PLUMPTON section containing various notices and information related to the Plumpton area.

Him Of Praise eyes Uttoxeter

Him Of Praise eyes Uttoxeter section containing information about the horse Him Of Praise and his trainer, Peter Cazalet.

RACELINE advertisement for Plumpton and Southwell racing results, including contact information and website details.

Mini runners make a maxi effort

John Goodbody on the popularity of *The Times* Mini London Marathon with youngsters

It is never too young to start running. One of the most enchanting sights of the Flora London Marathon is the Mini Marathon, when thousands of boys and girls race the last 2.8 miles of the course as part of this annual carnival of athletics.

This year, for the first time, the event will be sponsored by *The Times* and will be larger than ever before. For the past ten years, 2,500 youngsters from the 32 London boroughs and the Corporation of London have tasted the atmosphere of the event. The course runs from Upper Thames

Street, along the Embankment, past Big Ben and on to the famous finish in the Mall, just as the main race is starting in Greenwich.

It gives boys and girls a chance to run competitively before massive crowds and also experience some of the satisfaction that so many adults savour on the same day. Now, thanks to support from *The Times*, ten selected cities across the United Kingdom will be travelling to the capital to join in the festivities and take part in *The Times* Mini London Marathon.

The cities are naming the



top school in their area from the team results of cross-country championships held in January and throughout February. The school will then be invited to represent the city in the six age-category races: three for boys and three for girls, on Marathon day, April 26.

Several of the early winners of the event have gone on to international success. The race gave them the experience of competitive running before large crowds. Andrea Whitcombe, who took two 16 to 17-year-old titles when representing Hounslow, has subsequently won three national cross-country titles and was also a member of the British team at the world championships last year. Keith Cullen, who was also twice victorious in the event, represented Britain at the Atlanta Olympics.

The event is hugely popular in the London boroughs, which have Mini Marathon clubs. In Tower Hamlets, sessions have been held every Monday evening since September 15 at Mile End Stadium.

Pauline Bennett, the borough's sports development officer, says: "For us, the event has got bigger every year. Last year, we had special sessions



The four teenage Pickin sisters from London's Tower Hamlets, who train in Shadwell Park, find that Irish dancing also improves fitness levels

only for the last two weeks, but this year we decided to have them over the whole winter. We have had 250 children wanting to take part.

"Athletics has been getting more and more popular. They all ask each other questions like 'What time have you done it in?'". Ms Bennett believes that part of the popularity of the Mini Marathon is because the adult race goes through the borough, so that people are able to watch the event from outside their own houses and flats. The fall-off in interest among teenagers in most competitive sports, including ath-

letics, is usually more common among girls than boys. However, Tower Hamlets finds that in the 15-16 age group, more girls prefer running than boys.

Typical of the interest among girls in Tower Hamlets is the Pickin family of Wapping, whose father Andrew was a keen cross-country runner. They have 12 children — seven boys

and five girls — and four of the girls will be taking part in the Mini Marathon.



Their mother, Erika, says: "The marathon is a fun-filled day, and so much money is raised for good causes. We have lived here for 14 years and my children have watched the event every year. Often they have turned to me and said: 'Mum, I am going to

do that when I am older.'"

Katherine, 17, who attends Tower Hamlets College, will be running her fifth Mini Marathon. Her younger sisters all go to Bishop Challoner RC School. Helen, 15, will be doing her fourth Mini Marathon; Anna, 13, her third; and Penny, 12, her first. Their preparation is taken seriously, Erika says: "My husband takes them out to Shadwell Park to time them with a stopwatch. They love it."

She adds: "The girls all do Irish dancing so they have a basic fitness. The boys are more into football but Robert,

10, would like to do the Mini Marathon when he is older."

The Pickin family's physical activity certainly requires extensive washing. Erika says: "I have constant piles of dirty trackuits but it's nice to know when they have run a good race."

On April 26, almost all the Pickin family will be involved in the Mini Marathon. Four will be running and the rest cheering. Erika says: "The only one who won't be cheering will be Philip, who is only a few months old. He will be saving the cheering and running for later in life."



Andrea Whitcombe: former Mini Marathon winner

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Capitalisation, week's change

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Company	Price	Change
...

BANKS

Company	Price	Change
...

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Company	Price	Change
...

BUILDING MATERIALS

Company	Price	Change
...

ELECTRICITY

Company	Price	Change
...

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Company	Price	Change
...

CHEMICALS

Company	Price	Change
...

CONSTRUCTION

Company	Price	Change
...

DISTRIBUTORS

Company	Price	Change
...

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change
...

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Company	Price	Change
...

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Company	Price	Change
...

HEALTHCARE

Company	Price	Change
...

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

Company	Price	Change
...

LEISURE & HOTELS

Company	Price	Change
...

OIL & GAS

Company	Price	Change
...

BRITISH FUNDS

Company	Price	Change
...

INSURANCE

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...

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

Company	Price	Change
...

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...

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Wild thing, you make my heart sing

On Valentine's Day it's the thought that counts, whether you declare your love in print, write it across the sky, send it by mail order or adopt a live animal in the name of your loved one

Last year's bunch of daffodils were not, on the whole, a success. This year, with 12 days still to go, I've been thinking ahead.

The choice, however, is bewildering. Shall I compare thee, for example, to a pansy? Don't be offended: pansies are known in the Valentine's business as passion roots. But then, for February 14, almost anything can serve as a love-gift.

Shall I be straightforward? Sweets, Belgian chocolates, roses, jewellery, poetry, perfume, lingerie and anything for the bathroom are the traditional candidates.

Slightly less obvious? Teddy bears, pillows, bed-warmer, hot water bottles, candles, wine, gloves and anything made of silk - all cry love in mid-February. Some can be fashioned in a heart-shape, as can cushions, keyrings, cakes and casserole dishes on the dubious principle that the road to your partner's affections runs through the oven.

Many other gifts - cufflinks, mugs and glassware - are printed or painted for the occasion with a heart motif. Nutcrackers come pre-fashioned in the shape of heart.

What St Valentine would make of all this is hard to tell. Nobody is

quite sure, but he was probably a celibate Roman bishop martyred for his faith on February 14 in the year 270. Another theory suggests that the Christian authorities hijacked a pagan festival called Lupercalia, in which boys drew lots for girls. Working on similar lines, Chaucer suggested that birds sought their mates in February.

Whatever the truth, the good saint has bequeathed us an excuse for good-humoured and often lavish giving. A day on which Cuddish buckets and Pigley Pop can send each other newspaper messages (already arriving at *The Times* in sackloads; tel 0171-481-4000). A day on which 11 people proposed by pager last year, according to BT. A day, too, on which the Royal Mail expects to deliver more than 10 million cards and every one anonymous.

Some Valentine senders are not hard to guess. Two years ago Linda Holmes, of Westcliff, Essex, was waiting at a bus depot when this bus arrived with "Linda - I Love You" in large letters across the front. Her fiancé had paid Southend Transport £50 for the privilege.

But there is no need to go to such lengths to send an unusual present. Traditional gifts can be adjusted and improved. "Don't send flowers,

send a garden," says Helen Cowell of Flower Pots, based in Weybridge, Surrey. For £40 including delivery she will send the plants and seeds of love: a floribunda rose called Valentine Heart, three *dicentra* (heart-shaped flowers on a stalk), some forget-me-not seeds and an iris articulata called Harmony.

To a lover with a taste for the grape, Designer Wines of Bath will deliver a bottle of wine with an individual label written to instructions; for example, Chateau Cuddle-buckets, specially selected and imported by Pigley Pop. Director Ralph Godwin says fizzy pinks are the most popular: a pink champagne will cost £19.95.

"Our core business is importing wine and wholesaling, so this is just a bit of fun," he says. Express delivery takes four days, and the authentic wine details are also on the label.

Another form of express delivery comes from the Battlefield Line, a restored railway leading to Bosworth Field in Leicestershire, where the famous battle was fought in 1485. For £150 you can buy your Valentine a driving course on which he or she will be taught how to drive a 460 Jubilee Class express steam passenger locomotive called



Animal passions: Debbie Muir with an orphaned badger up for adoption at Secret World, Somerset

Kolpahur, or a Great Western Old parunter tank engine. Both engines pull a train of carriages.

"It's a bit mucky but great fun," says Fay Hanley, of Battlefield. "It's actually quite complicated firing the engine and getting it going, but then you chug along through stations for nearly ten miles. It's the fulfillment of a childhood dream."

The feel-good factor also plays a part in the range of animal schemes which compete for Valentine attention. Given the chance to support wildlife, the argument goes, lovers will feel better about themselves and perhaps release their animal passion on the giver.

Care for the Wild presents the chance to adopt orphaned animals as a way of funding wildlife projects: elephants and rhinos in Kenya, orang-utans in Borneo, and even baby badgers in Britain: Blade, Nippy and Foggylove await donations on a farm in Somerset. Other schemes focus on dolphins, tigers and gorillas. Most offer updates on your animal and videos. "Never forget me, here's a hairy orang-utan," is how Julia Robinson, of Care for the Wild, sums up the message.

So, from all this, what shall I give? I shall start with *The Little Book of Love* (Penguin, £1.99) and say simply, with Thackeray: "We love being in love, that's the truth on't."

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Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Beer excise duty increase lawful No permanent monopoly

Regina v Commissioners of Customs and Excise and Others, Ex parte Shepherd Neame Ltd

Before Lord Justice May and Mr Justice Moses [Judgment January 21] The UK Government was entitled to increase excise duty on beer as increasing the rate of that duty was within the sole competence of the member states and was not within the competence of the European Community.

increase of 3 per cent was, he said, such a measure because it preserved or increased the divergence in rates between the United Kingdom and other member states, it made the task of achieving further convergence more difficult. In his Lordship's judgment, the applicant had failed to establish that it was a Treaty objective to achieve further approximation of excise rates beyond the minimum rates contained in the Rates Directive. Article 99 made no assumption as to what was necessary to achieve the proper functioning of the internal market.

put, in his Lordship's view, was that that further approximation was a possible step forward in the achievement of a properly functioning market. Commission v United Kingdom (Case 327/93) [1993] ECR 2403 provided an instructive contrast to the present case. In that case, by the time the Commission took direct action against the United Kingdom for its failure to take conservation measures in three fisheries areas, it was already clear that conservation was a matter for the Community and not for member states. Contrast with the excise duty system was striking.

Philips Electronics NV v Remington Consumer Products Ltd Before Mr Justice Jacob [Judgment December 22] It was not a consequence of the Trade Marks Act 1994 that a trader could, by virtue of a trade mark registration, obtain a permanent monopoly of matters of significant engineering design. Although the word "sign" in that Act covered anything which could convey information, so that a bare drawing of the face of an electric shaver was a sign, such a drawing was not registrable under that Act because it was not capable of fully guaranteeing that shaver's origin, and hence incapable of distinguishing it from other shavers.

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Hinchliffe and Another Before Mr Justice Rattee [Judgment January 29] No matter how likely or imminent it might be that Parliament would enact legislation to incorporate a European treaty which would materially affect current civil proceedings in his favour, a litigant was not entitled to a stay of proceedings in the teeth of opposition by his adversary. Mr Justice Rattee so held in the Chancery Division when dismissing an appeal by Stephen Leonard Hinchliffe from the refusal by District Judge Wilson, in Newcastle District Registry on November 19, 1997, of an application for a stay of proceedings until the first open date after April 14, 1998 then believed to be the month during which the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights (1953) and Fundamental Freedoms (1953) (I.C.M.D. 8849) was likely to be incorporated into United Kingdom legislation.

MR JUSTICE JACOB said that if Philips were right, they would in consequence of the Directive have obtained a permanent monopoly in respect of matters of significant engineering design. Most of Philips' patents having expired, patent infringement was not alleged. In 1966 they made the first three-headed rotary shaver, although many variants had followed, the shaving face, or "business end", had remained basically the same. The Trade Mark Case Mr Pumfrey contended that once a whole or part of a product was recognised by the public as emanating from one manufacturer, a picture of it or part of it, or indeed the shape of it or part of it, could be registered; and use made of that registration to stop any copying of the product for ever and ever. Although Remington suggested that the drawing in question was not a "sign", his Lordship thought it was. A "sign" covered anything which could convey information. Since the drawing conveyed a message, it was a sign. Recitals 10(a) and 10(b), together with section 3(1)(a) and (b), emphasised the limits of what signs could be registered. In particular the purpose of a trade mark was to guarantee trade origin. Here, Philips could not deny their sign primarily denoted function, saying "Here is a three-headed rotary shaver"; hence, being incapable of denoting only Philips' goods, it was devoid of distinctive character. Mr Pumfrey had invited his Lordship to reconsider his words in British Sugar plc v James Robertson and Sons Ltd [1996] RPC 281, 302: "It is precisely because a common laudatory word is naturally capable of application to the goods of any trader that one must be careful before concluding that merely its use, however substantial, has displaced its common meaning and has come to denote the mark of the particular trader." But unless a word had in practice displaced its ordinary meaning, it would not properly denote that trader's goods and none other. Turning to section 3(2)(a) the drawing did not "result from the nature of the goods... viewed as articles of commerce, namely, shavers themselves; but his Lordship thought that both exclusions (b) "shape... necessary to obtain a technical result" and (c) "shape which gives substantial value to the goods" applied to disqualify the sign from being registrable. As to exclusion (b) his Lordship was departing from the decision in Philips [1997] ETMR 373, a majority decision of the Swedish majority of Appeal and as to (c), was rejecting Mr Pumfrey's submission that the choice of the three-headed shape had no effect on the essential value of the product. Philips' advertising strategy, to educate every nerve successfully, to educate in the result, trade mark, was in the public interest. In the result, trade mark, 1254,308 had to be revoked. The Paris Convention Case His Lordship rejected the Paris Convention case because at the time (1927) of the introduction of the relevant provision (article 9) his no one would have dreamed that it covered engineering artefacts and Remington's use of its mark was not likely to cause confusion. The Registered Design Case His Lordship held that Philips' registered design was valid but of limited scope. Solicitors: Eversheds, Leech, Lochner, Galsburning.

MR JUSTICE RATTEE said the basis for the appeal was a claim that the proposed provisions of the Convention that there was a good prospect of it becoming United Kingdom law, with retrospective effect, in October, and that if that did not succeed, any real benefit would be a that of public money as well as that of Mr Hinchliffe. Against that, Mr Jones had particularly relied upon Willow Wren Canal Carrying Co Ltd v British Transport Commission [1965] 1 W.L.R. 213, where the defendant had failed to obtain a stay of proceedings pending the passage through Parliament of a Bill which they expected would exonerate them. Here, it was in the public interest that the court should allow the proceedings under the 1986 Act to proceed, if on the evidence, a period of disqualification were found appropriate, the sooner it started, the better. Solicitors: Peters & Peters; Dickinson Dees, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Court cannot anticipate move by Parliament

Factors in changing surname of child

In re C (a Minor) (Change of surname) Before Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Ward [Judgment January 23] Where a child's surname had been lawfully changed but that change was challenged under the Children Act 1989, the correct approach was to look at what was in the best interests of the child, when the name change was contemplated. There was a heavy responsibility on those who sought to change a child's name as a matter of prudence to take the issue, if disputed, before a judge for resolution and to appreciate that good and cogent reasons should be shown to allow a change. The Court of Appeal so stated when dismissing an appeal by the father of child C, from the refusal by Judge Colyer, QC, at Dartford County Court on May 29, 1997 of his application under section 8 of the 1989 Act to change the child's surname. In 1992 the mother and father, an unmarried couple, registered

the child's name at birth as C, the father's name. In 1994 the relationship ended and the mother changed the name by deed poll to H. The father became aware of the name change in late 1995. Mr Michael Bailey for the father, Miss Joan Moore for the mother. LORD JUSTICE WARD, sitting out the principles that might assist judges in dealing with questions involving change of surname, said that the effect of registration of a child's name was that what was in the best interests of the child was the dominating factor. The precise issue on appeal was whether or not the name should be changed back, but his Lordship agreed that, given that a birth certificate was not susceptible to change, any change of name had to be justified in the best interests of the child. A name change was an act of parental responsibility and all acts of parental responsibility should be viewed by the court in the best interests of the child. The proper approach therefore was to ask whether in 1994 it had been in the interests of the child that her name be changed. His Lordship found that the mother's justification was in-

sufficient. The judge had misdirected himself when asking whether it was in the child's interests whether or not her name be changed back. The question was posed too starkly and looked at divided into two parts: (a) whether it had been in the child's best interests to change the name in the first place. In the exercise of the Court of Appeal's discretion, however, his Lordship concluded that it would not do the child sufficient good to be known as C to outweigh the disadvantage of denial of the relief sought. His Lordship hoped that the judgment would show advisers that there was a heavy responsibility on those who seek to change a child's name as a matter of parental responsibility, if not of law, to take the issue, if disputed, for resolution by a judge and to appreciate that good and cogent reasons should be shown to allow a change. Lord Justice Kennedy agreed. Solicitors: Bailly & Co, Dartford; Hewitt Burrough & Co, Dartford.

MR JUSTICE JACOB said that if Philips were right, they would in consequence of the Directive have obtained a permanent monopoly in respect of matters of significant engineering design. Most of Philips' patents having expired, patent infringement was not alleged. In 1966 they made the first three-headed rotary shaver, although many variants had followed, the shaving face, or "business end", had remained basically the same. The Trade Mark Case Mr Pumfrey contended that once a whole or part of a product was recognised by the public as emanating from one manufacturer, a picture of it or part of it, or indeed the shape of it or part of it, could be registered; and use made of that registration to stop any copying of the product for ever and ever. Although Remington suggested that the drawing in question was not a "sign", his Lordship thought it was. A "sign" covered anything which could convey information. Since the drawing conveyed a message, it was a sign. Recitals 10(a) and 10(b), together with section 3(1)(a) and (b), emphasised the limits of what signs could be registered. In particular the purpose of a trade mark was to guarantee trade origin. Here, Philips could not deny their sign primarily denoted function, saying "Here is a three-headed rotary shaver"; hence, being incapable of denoting only Philips' goods, it was devoid of distinctive character. Mr Pumfrey had invited his Lordship to reconsider his words in British Sugar plc v James Robertson and Sons Ltd [1996] RPC 281, 302: "It is precisely because a common laudatory word is naturally capable of application to the goods of any trader that one must be careful before concluding that merely its use, however substantial, has displaced its common meaning and has come to denote the mark of the particular trader." But unless a word had in practice displaced its ordinary meaning, it would not properly denote that trader's goods and none other. Turning to section 3(2)(a) the drawing did not "result from the nature of the goods... viewed as articles of commerce, namely, shavers themselves; but his Lordship thought that both exclusions (b) "shape... necessary to obtain a technical result" and (c) "shape which gives substantial value to the goods" applied to disqualify the sign from being registrable. As to exclusion (b) his Lordship was departing from the decision in Philips [1997] ETMR 373, a majority decision of the Swedish majority of Appeal and as to (c), was rejecting Mr Pumfrey's submission that the choice of the three-headed shape had no effect on the essential value of the product. Philips' advertising strategy, to educate every nerve successfully, to educate in the result, trade mark, was in the public interest. In the result, trade mark, 1254,308 had to be revoked. The Paris Convention Case His Lordship rejected the Paris Convention case because at the time (1927) of the introduction of the relevant provision (article 9) his no one would have dreamed that it covered engineering artefacts and Remington's use of its mark was not likely to cause confusion. The Registered Design Case His Lordship held that Philips' registered design was valid but of limited scope. Solicitors: Eversheds, Leech, Lochner, Galsburning.

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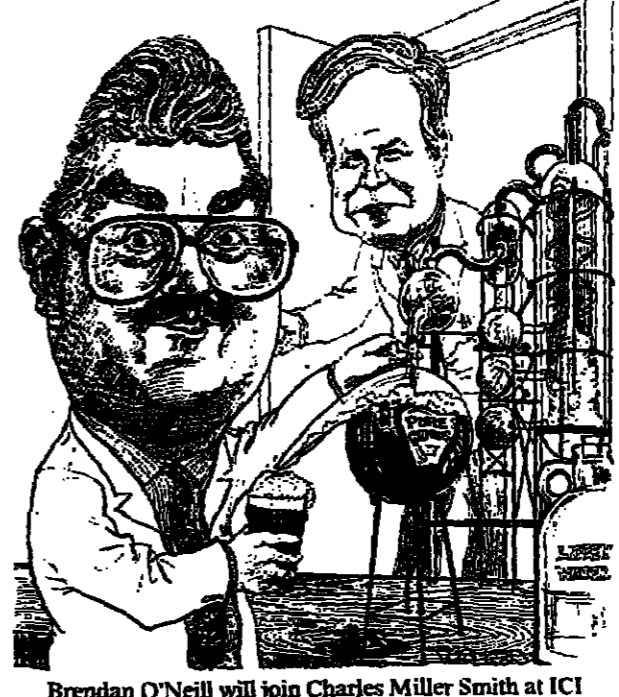
Profits take a pounding at ICI

TODAY: Interim: BAA (q), Peter Black Holdings, Whitbread of Chelsea, Flaxco, Economic: CIPS manufacturing sector survey (January), provisional M0 money supply (January). TOMORROW: Interim: BSKV, Boyart Group, Henderson (q), St Andrew Trust, Slovaca Group, Fleming, Fortnum & Mason, British Home Stores, GCB, active Media Group, Economic: Halifax house price survey (January). WEDNESDAY: Final: Capital Shopping, Crest Nicholson, Economic: CIPS service sector survey (January), Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee meeting begins. THURSDAY: Interim: Photo International, Flaxco, ICI, Economic: Housing starts (December), new construction orders (December), CBI distributive trades survey (January), new car registrations (January), Bank of England interest rate decision. FRIDAY: Interim: Cassidy Bros, Shire Pharmaceutical, Economic: Industrial manufacturing output (December).

ICI: The City will pay more than passing interest to full-year figures on Thursday. They come as the group is mid-way through an £8-billion restructuring programme. This has included £3.5 billion of disposals and the £5 billion acquisition of Unilever's speciality chemicals business. Brokers are looking for a further decline in profitability as the transition continues. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson is forecasting £380 million pre-tax against £603 million last time, while NatWest expects £395 million. Earnings a share are expected to fall from 48.6p to 30p. A robust performance is expected from the newly acquired specialist chemicals business but results from the industrial arm are expected to remain poor, undermined by sterling's strength. A modest improvement is on the cards from paints. Volume growth in the US and Europe will have improved but the fallout from the Asian crisis will have begun to be felt, with sales in Thailand and Malaysia particularly hard hit. Price increases in acrylics will have offset the effects of adverse currency movements in the materials division. Despite the profits decline, the dividend is expected to stay at 52p. In May Brendan O'Neill joins ICI as chief operating officer

from Guinness. Charles Miller Smith, now chief executive, will become chairman when Sir Ronald Hampel retires. BSKV: The satellite broadcaster is expected to produce a small decline in pre-tax profits to between £125 million and £128 million when half-year figures are published tomorrow. This compares with £133.7 million in the corresponding period last year. Analysts expect earnings a share to decline from 7.1p to 6.5p. The broadcaster, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times, will no doubt be questioned closely about the launch of its digital service. Any further delay of the June deadline will be viewed bearishly by the City. Brokers are becoming increasingly pessimistic that the group can stick to its original timetable after the delay in launching the Astra 2a satellite. The Astra 1d satellite will be moved in orbit to provide the capacity to launch the digital service. A 20 per cent rise in revenue to £703 million will be offset by the increased cost of programming and the launch of the

digital system. Therefore, operating profits are likely to be flat at about £160 million. Increased losses from associates such as GSB, the Paramount Channel and Playboy will be responsible for the decline in profits at the pre-tax level. The payout should grow 10 per cent to 3p. BAA GROUP: Airline travel is booming which should bode well for Britain's biggest airport operator. Third-quarter numbers out today should show pre-tax profits for the nine months up from £396 million to between £410 million and £420 million. Brokers have pencilled in £462 million for the full year. Earnings are expected to be up from 28.9p to 30.3p. Passenger numbers during the first nine months grew 7 per cent to 82 million, while cargo volumes were up almost 10 per cent. It is estimated that this sort of growth combined with the pricing formula of RPI-X 3 per cent will produce an increase in airport charges of almost 5 per cent at £407 million. Revenue from retail and other income should produce a boost to total revenue of 22 per cent at £1.3 billion. The Asian crisis will have only a small impact on revenues.



Brendan O'Neill will join Charles Miller Smith at ICI

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

The Monetary Policy Committee faces its toughest interest rate decision to date when it meets on Wednesday and Thursday. The committee must determine whether signs of a slowdown in the economy as a whole will be sufficient to stop the jump in average earnings feeding through into higher inflation. The City believes the Bank will probably opt to leave rates on hold. The December industrial production figures on Friday are expected to show manufacturers struggling with the strong pound. MIMS International, the economic consultancy, predicts the annual growth rate will slip from 1.6 per cent to 1.2 per cent. The CBI's distributive trades survey on Thursday should indicate whether stronger than expected consumer credit figures are to be translated into a bumper January for the retailers.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

Table with multiple columns: 1997/98 High/Low, 1997/98 Mid cap, Price, Why +/-, Yld %, P/E, 1997/98 High/Low, 1997/98 Mid cap, Price, Why +/-, Yld %, P/E, 1997/98 High/Low, 1997/98 Mid cap, Price, Why +/-, Yld %, P/E. Lists various stocks like Astra, BAA, BSKV, etc.

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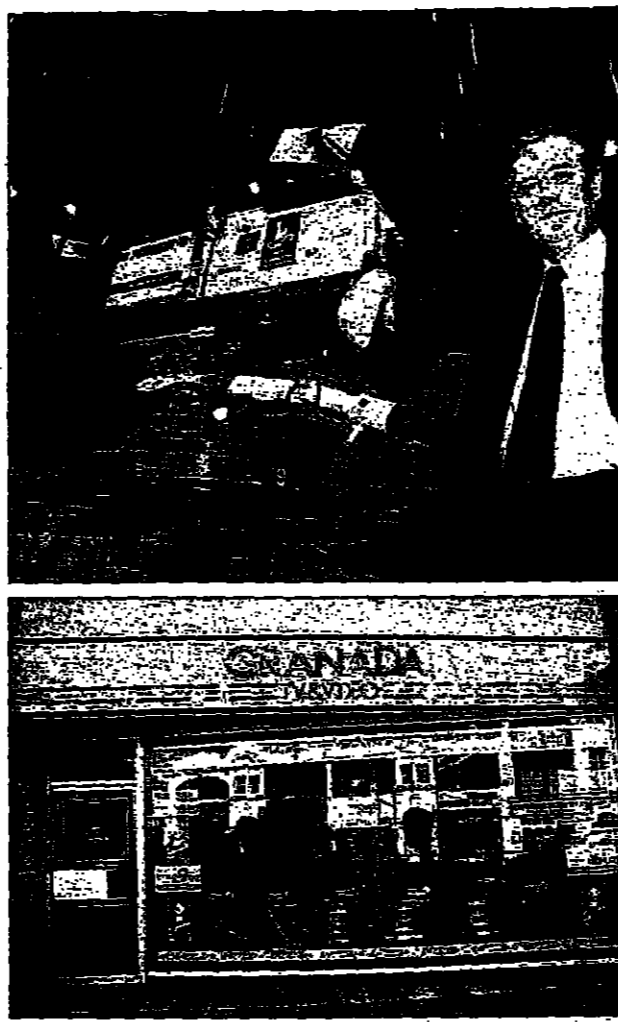
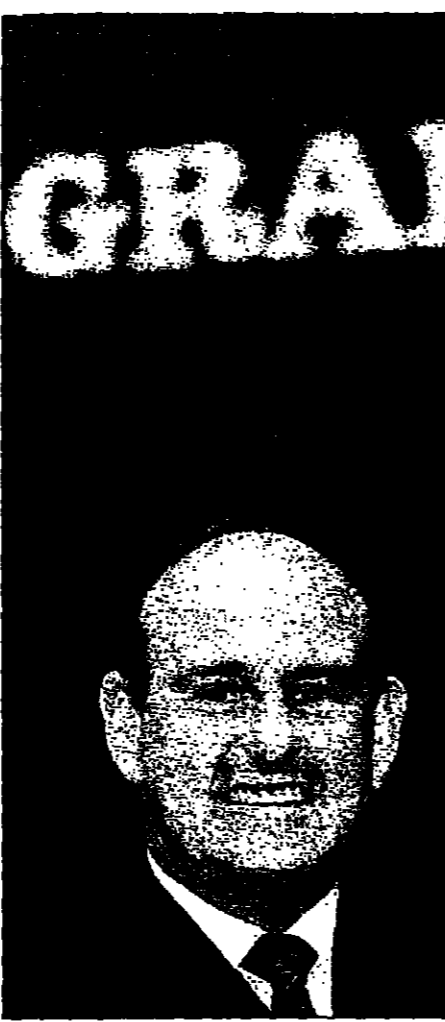
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THE FACTS
 Market cap: £8.28 billion.
 Pre-tax profit: £680.9 million.
 Profit margin: 16 per cent.
 Shareholders' funds: £1.14 billion.
 Employees: 70,538.

THE BOARD
 Granada is dominated by the relationship between two directors, Gerry Robinson, 49, chairman, and Charles Allen, 40, chief executive. Both are self-made men from modest backgrounds who did not go to university but went into industry and worked their way up as management accountants — Robinson at Lesney Products and Lex Services Group, Allen at British Steel and TM Group. They came together in Grand Metropolitan and worked together as business partners through the management buyout at Compass and at Granada since 1991. Robinson, who came out publicly for new Labour at the last election, has recently been appointed chairman of the Arts Council but sees it as a one-day-a-week job. He believes that he will probably stay at Granada until his retirement. Charles Allen also has a long-term commitment to the company. SBC Warburg Dillon Head placed a value on the partnership, in terms of value added to the company, of £490 million or 50p a share. The other three executive directors are Henry Staunton, 43, the finance director and former senior audit partner at Price Waterhouse; Graham Parrott, 48, the commercial director who joined Granada in 1973 and has been group secretary since 1988; and Stephanie Morik, 54, the human resources director, who joined Granada in 1990 from London International. The four non-executives are hardly diphers. The longest serving is John Ashworth, chairman of the British Library Board and former director of the London School of Economics, who is 59. He was a non-executive of Granada TV for eight years before joining the group board in 1989. Richard Clothier, 52, is a former chief executive of the Dalgety Group. The other two non-executives, Ian Martin and Michael Orr, 60, is chairman of Molins and Weddington and is a former director of SG Warburg and GrandMet.

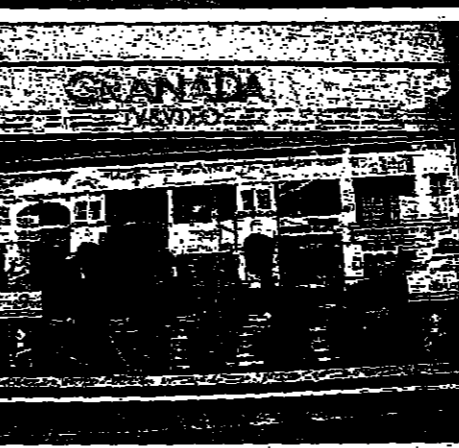
The most remarkable thing about Granada, the media and hospitality group, is that over the past six years the company has been almost completely transformed while apparently hardly changing at all. It is almost as if there has been a continuous process of re-furbishment while business has gone on as normal. There has been, of course, the bitter contested bid for Forte, the hotels and restaurants group, and the disposal of the disappointing computer maintenance businesses — an aberration of earlier management — but the heart of the original business is still there, based on commercial television, motorway services and rental, although rental is now only 10 per cent of the whole, whereas six years ago it was 90 per cent. During the period, Granada, the company that the Bernsteins built, has taken the sometimes painful journey from a traditional enterprise with a strong family feel, to a focused, commercially driven business run by an admired professional management team. The approach has led to the most dramatic transformation of all — on the bottom line. When the story of the past six years is represented in graphical form, the change can be seen a rule off. In 1991-92, Granada's pre-tax profits were £56.9 million. Last year, they were £660.9 million, with analysts forecasting £740 million for this year and £812 million for 1999. The change in profit margins is even more marked. In 1991-92, Granada achieved a margin of only 4 per cent, admittedly in a very bad year. The margin is now 16 per cent. The upward trends on all the graphs, whether for margins, profits or share price, coincide precisely with the arrival of Gerry Robinson and his business associate, Charles Allen, from Compass, the catering group — a move accompanied by a flurry of anti-catering jokes from the sometimes rather precious television division. More than with the top people in most companies, it is impossible to understand what makes Granada tick without knowing how Gerry Robinson and Charles Allen approach business and how they relate to each other. "It's just a relationship which has worked, which has always worked for whatever reason," says Robinson. There is an element of complementarity and division of labour. As chairman, Robinson tends these days to concentrate on strategy, setting the tone and taking the big decisions that can make a difference —

CORPORATE

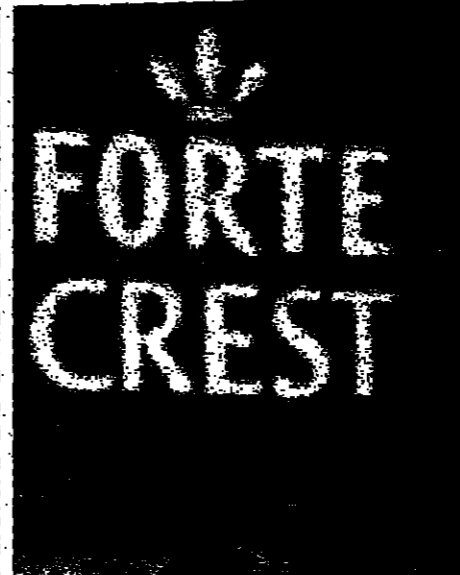


Charles Allen, left, and Gerry Robinson, centre, have transformed Granada in the six years since they arrived. In that time the company has bought Forte, the hotels and restaurants group that was run by Sir Rocco Forte, while TV rentals now account for just 10 per cent of the business, rather than 90 per cent.

particularly on who to hire for senior appointments. Allen, as chief executive, is the persuasive, relentless progress chaser. However, the duo's strength is that, when need be, they are virtually interchangeable. They also share a similar view of what is important in running a business, and the word that they use most is "clarity" — both in corporate purpose and in making sure that staff know just what is expected of them. Most businesses, they believe, have strong similarities, and few are really special. They are equally convinced that most conventional wisdom turns out to be wrong and that one of the most creative things that a manager can do is to question why things are done in a particular way. Decision-making and responsibility should, of course, be decentralised, industry performance norms regarded as a basement, rather than a benchmark, with detailed monthly and weekly financial returns and even



"It's so important that you run something honestly," says Robinson. "The world isn't made of fairytales is it, so let's not ignore any problems." Most Granada managers have, in their time, been called in for such chats, says Robinson, although he emphasises that 93 of today's 100 top managers were there when he joined. In almost an echo of his chairman, Allen says he does not want to hear ten excuses why divisional managers have had a bad month. "They had better have a few things in their kit bag on what they are doing about it," says Allen. The Granada chief executive, who was an assiduous diner in Little Chicks and top hotels after the Forte acquisition, had a deviously simple way of separating the sheep from the goats in the Forte management. "Tell me," Allen would ask a hotel manager, "what ideas did the Forte headquarters prevent you from doing?" To survive, a manager needed to have some of those ideas. If Robinson and Allen have been important to Granada — and the evidence is conclusive that they have — then their future attachment is equally important to shareholders. Robinson, 49, says that he "thinks it's very unlikely" that he will not stay at Granada until he retires. The only question in his mind is whether he will retire at 55 or 60. Allen is also



committed long term to the partnership. One obvious thing that Granada has failed to do is to take the company international to any great extent, partly because their main products — television, and food and hospitality — are to a considerable extent culturally based. Robinson and Allen — they really are as much a duo as a musical act — say that they have nothing against taking Granada international, but would only do it if it was good business as well. In their previous lives, they had to pick up some of the pieces of a globalisation push at Grand Metropolitan and they are wary, to say the least. They also believe that going global requires the attention of a company's best managers, and that may not be the best use of their time. The likelihood now is that Granada, for the next few years, will disappoint both the City and the press because it will not be offering great enter-

ment. It took five years to transform the profits of Granada Television, and Robinson and Allen feel that there will be a further three years of worrying away at the details of Forte before the maximum value is squeezed out. Some day, Granada will sell its stake in BSkyB, the satellite venture in which a 40 per cent stake is held by News International, owner of The Times. But Granada will not sell its holding until conditions of interest start to arise between that and its 50 per cent stake in BDB, the digital terrestrial television project. Such a point is probably more than four years away. Granada faces well in the "fat cat" league with Robinson approximately 30 per cent more than the company — although Robinson points out that as a decentralised company responsibility for ethical issues is also dealt with at divisional level. Apart from having an increasing stream of profit, is Granada likely to change much as a company between now and 2002? Probably not. It is possible that it might form an alliance with a larger group to go international. "But it's unlikely," says Robinson. The company could split itself into two — media and hospitality — as was considered and rejected last year. "It's not impossible — in three years you could have a split, but I think it's unlikely," says Robinson with clarity, and focus. **RAYMOND SNODDY**

Ethical expression... 2/10
Fat-cat quotient... 8/10
Financial record... 9/10
Share performance... 8/10
Attitude to employees 6/10
Strength of brand... 8/10
Innovation... 6/10
Annual report... 9/10
City star rating... 9/10
Future prospects... 8/10
Total... 78/100
 Ethical expression is calculated by *Justify Words*. The fat-cat quotient, in which best directors pay attention to ethics, is provided by *Crab Consulting*.

Fewer than 20 employees? Have your say on a law that could affect your business and help disabled people.

The Disability Discrimination Act protects disabled people against discrimination. The employment part of the Act currently affects companies with 20 or more staff, but the Government is consulting on whether this limit should be lowered to cover smaller organisations like your own. To have your say, get hold of a consultation document by calling 0345 622 633, textphone 0345 622 644 quoting SED1, or fill in this coupon and send it to DDA Information Line, FREEPOST MID 02164, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 9BR.

Name _____ Address _____
 Telephone _____ Postcode _____
DDA Department for Disability and Employment
 SED1

Heron in £175m leisure project

HERON International, the European property group, yesterday announced details of a £175 million entertainment and leisure development programme based on four centres, in Stockholm, Lille, Barcelona and Madrid (Raymond Snoddy writes). Each centre, offering a

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.52	2.54
Austria Sch	22.00	20.34
Belgian Fr	64.76	59.80
Canada \$	2.220	2.232
Denmark Kr	0.919	0.948
Finland Mkk	11.06	11.07
France Fr	9.59	8.84
Germany Dm	10.6	9.88
Greece Dr	3.15	2.97
Hong Kong \$	499	462.7
Ireland Pt	13.52	12.32
Italy Lit	191	111
Japan Yen	1.26	1.16
Norway Kr	6.29	5.94
Spain Ptas	11.22	9.95
Sweden Kr	229.53	208.00
Switzerland Fr	0.856	0.826
USA \$	1.654	1.528
New Zealand \$	2.97	2.73
Norway Kr	12.99	12.05
Portugal Esc	318.02	295.00
S Africa Rd	8.81	7.85
Spain Ptas	264.29	245.50
Sweden Kr	14.04	12.94
Switzerland Fr	2.57	2.35
Turkey Lira	361252	341374
USA \$	1.747	1.604

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to transfer of cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

CHANGE ON WEEK
 US dollar 1.6350 (-0.0312)
 German mark 2.9891 (+0.0229)
 Exchange index 105.0 (+0.1)
 Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share 3358.6 (+123.2)
 FTSE 100 5458.5 (+277.1)
 New York Dow Jones 7906.50 (+205.76)
 Tokyo Nikkei Avge 16828.47 (-160.64)

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A DIVISION OF FORTE HOTELS

هكذا من الامم

هكذا من الاصل

The turning point for interest rates?



BOOTE

This is triple-whitching week for the money markets. The central bank committees which set interest rates in the US, Germany and Britain all meet over the next few days.

Rate rises are unlikely in Germany and the US, although the dear old Bank of England cannot be absolutely relied upon to leave well alone. But even here, despite the continued twitching of the inflation hawks, the balance of arguments is shifting markedly against higher rates. "Central Bankers Meet - No One Hurt" it may not sound like much of a headline, but it is a good story.

The German case is the least surprising. With unemployment nudging 12 per cent and the fledgling economic recovery based largely on exports rather than domestic demand, there have only been two reasons to expect higher German rates - preparation for a higher, compromise level of euro interest rates to accommodate the needs of faster growing members of the monetary union, and inflation paranoia.

The first reason has evaporated after the apparent success of a Bundesbank campaign that euro rates should initially be set close to the requirements of the core countries. The second has crumbled in the face of the abundant evidence that price pressures are extremely weak. The latest west German inflation figure is 1.2 per cent. Moreover, the Bundesbank is apparently coming to recognise that the impact of the Asian crisis is going to be more serious than originally thought.

Accordingly, although official short rates may yet rise from the current 3.3 per cent, they will not rise by much, and there is a good chance that they will not rise at all before the mark gives way to the euro at the end of this year. Moreover, the remarkably good

inflation performance across Europe, including the peripheral countries, coupled with the anti-inflationary forces which EMU will unleash, may mean that euro rates do not have to rise much, if at all, next year.

The US situation is different. Given strong domestic demand, the economy appears to be crying out for a rate rise. Yet inflation still fails to rear its head and the Asian crisis will tend to push it lower still. Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, has good reason to continue with his policy of waiting until inflation shows convincing signs of picking up before raising rates. The way things are going, that may mean not raising rates at all, and even cutting them before year-end.

Britain is much closer to the American experience, but the domestic case for leaving base rates

sharp economic slowdown this year is on the cards.

Nevertheless, the arguments for higher interest rates persist. The strongest of them is that on past form, the economy is already past boiling point. Even though it is set to cool anyway, this may not be enough to keep inflation at the target of 2.5 per cent over the next two years. Yet if Chairman Greenspan has been prepared to put the form book to one side and to await convincing signs that inflation is set to rise, why can the Bank of England not do likewise?

One reason, you could argue, is that in Britain there is no need to wait for signs of higher inflation - it is here already. Underlying inflation has been at or above the target for the last three years and, at 2.7 per cent, is still above it. Moreover, the growth of wages, already uncomfortably high, has

risen to almost 5 per cent, a level which, if sustained, could put the inflation target in jeopardy.

But look closer and this argument starts to disintegrate. Wage growth is a lagging indicator, telling you more about the past behaviour of the economy than about its future. More particularly, one of the leading reasons for its recent pick-up has been the widespread tendency for settlements to be made with reference to the headline rate of inflation.

This currently stands as high as 3.6 per cent because it includes mortgage interest payments. These have been increased by repeated rises in base rates imposed in order to reduce inflation. Raise base rates again and mortgage rates will follow, pushing headline inflation up even further, thereby threatening to increase wage settlements. That would be

all very well if there were convincing signs that inflation was going to be a problem, but this is where we came in. Apart, possibly, from the rate of wage increases, there aren't. So the Bank would be well advised to take a leaf out of Mr Greenspan's book and wait. If it does, then the case for higher rates is likely to weaken thereafter, as the economy softens. In other words, interest rates are at, or very close to, their peak here also.

The wider significance of this story concerns the long-standing war against inflation. If these three central banks stop raising rates it will be tantamount to declaring victory. In that case, the armies can go home and we can all look forward to the peace dividend. The lesson of history, of course, is that shocks always upset the best laid plans - and forecasts. If there is already something at work, it is probably the still under-estimated effects of the Asian crisis. But in that case, of course, the surprise will be not higher, but lower interest rates.

Miners' widows may sue DTI over fuel rights

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is heading for an embarrassing legal clash with miners' widows and retired coalworkers in a dispute over fuel rights.

The legal threat looms as mining unions are locked in conflict with the Department of Trade and Industry over changes to coal entitlements for retired pit workers and their families. Nacods, the pit deputies union, is looking at mounting a legal challenge that could be conducted in conjunction with the National Union of Mineworkers.

The challenge worsens already strained relations between ministers and miners after the recent coal crisis in which the Government belatedly made substantial policy changes to prevent pit closures and huge job losses.

Mining unions are working on legal advice which could lead to groups of widows suing the DTI for reneging on coal concession agreements. It is likely that the unions would line up groups of widows and elderly dependants of miners

to fight the cases using legal aid.

Peter McNestry, general secretary of Nacods, said: "We are looking at the legal aspects of this. The Government is taking away significant benefits from some of the poorest people in the mining communities."

Pat Carragher, general secretary of the British Association of Colliery Management, said: "A lot of beneficiaries are elderly and will be confused that previous guarantees of fixed tonnage are now being broken. All this is about trying to reduce cost and frankly I am appalled by what is happening."

Letters from the DTI to people receiving coal benefits outlining the changes to their entitlements have been sent in the past few days. The changes hinge on the benchmarking of coal entitlements. Previously, the coal allocations have been set against Sumbrite, a type of domestic fuel, but are now to be set against anthracite, a cheaper coal variety.

Mr Carragher has given warning that the switch could also erode the market for UK coal when the Government is currently conducting an energy review to determine the long-term future for the coal industry.

In a letter to the DTI he said: "Reducing these entitlements or requiring beneficiaries to burn fuels which are less satisfactory to them can only increase the likely conversion of entitlements to cash and conversion to gas."

"Not surprisingly this will further reduce the market for British coal at a time when the Government is examining how best that market can be protected."

The DTI has argued that European public procurement requirements mean that it has to change the agreement struck between the unions and British Coal in 1993-94 to use Sumbrite as a benchmark. But critics of the change reject this and say the motivation is Treasury-inspired - to save cash.



Just in time: Leslie Ferrar, KPMG tax partner, left, and David Skinner, senior manager, deliver last-minute tax returns

Revenue faces mammoth task

THE Inland Revenue today begins the mammoth task of sifting through millions of self-assessment forms after a last-minute weekend rush to beat automatic late payment fines (Aldair Murray and Clare Stewart write).

The Revenue said that re-

turns had come in "thick and fast" but it was hard to tell at this stage how many people had still missed the January 31 deadline. More than 300 tax offices stayed open on Saturday - for the first time in 30 years - to handle the huge volume of returns. Tax

experts have estimated that up to 1.5 million people may have missed the deadline and face a fine of £100 later this month. Taxpayers will also be charged interest at 9.5 per cent on their outstanding tax bills. However, accountants believe there are some little-

publicised exemptions to the automatic fine. If a tax return was issued after October 31, the recipient is legally entitled to a three-months' minimum for completion. Taxpayers due a rebate, even if their forms arrived late, will also not face any penalty.

High street banks face competition from BMW

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

BMW is set to become the first major car company to take on the high street banks with the launch of a direct banking service in the UK.

The German car company, which owns Rover in the UK, intends to expand its existing financial services activities - which include car loans and insurance - towards provision of a full banking service.

Initially, BMW aims to offer current and savings accounts and loan services to BMW and Rover owners, but it hopes eventually to offer a full banking service to all consumers.

Analysts said this reflects the trend among established non-financial companies to try to cash in on growing consumer discontent with established banks.

The move, which closely follows the entry of major supermarkets and Virgin into the financial services market, is likely to accelerate consolidation in the banking sector. NatWest and Barclays are regarded as especially vulnerable to takeovers or merger offers.

BMW is already a major player in the German financial services market and hopes to use this experience for the UK launch.

The company is expected to kick-start its entry into sector with a major marketing campaign.

Bass to expand Holiday Inn Express chain

By DOMINIC WALSH

THE march of budget hotels into UK city centres will be stepped up this year as Bass's Holiday Inn Express brand joins the fray.

Following in the footsteps of Granada's Travelodge and Whitbread's Travel Inn, the company is set to announce plans for nine Express hotels in cities, including Birmingham, Glasgow, Manchester, Bristol and London. Total development costs are estimated at more than £40 million.

Shane Harris, the brand's vice-president for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, said the hotels would be developed by franchisees, with only the Birmingham unit being built and operated by Bass Taverners.

The developments, a mixture of new builds and conversions, include two in London: 216 rooms in Old Street and an 88 rooms in Southampton.

Street. The decision to expand into city centres comes after the success of a 52-room Holiday Inn Express opened in Victoria, central London, last summer, which has been running at more than 90 per cent occupancy. It charges £73 a room, including breakfast and VAT, compared with a typical cost of £45 at the 14 existing Holiday Inn Express hotels in the UK.

Mr Harris said: "In its first seven months, the Victoria hotel's denials have been greater than the number of rooms actually sold. That indicates to us that there is a huge demand for good quality hotels at competitive prices in city centre locations."

He said development agreements with UK franchise partners would take Holiday Inn Express past the 100 mark within three to five years.



Franchisees will run most of the new budget hotels

World Cup may lift sports sales to £2.9bn

By FRASER NELSON

SPORTS retailers are poised to enjoy a £2.9 billion sales boom this year as the World Cup helps to boost a market that now speaks for 1.5 per cent of consumer spending, according to Verdict, the retail consultancy.

The football tournament could help sales of replica football strips to reach £250 million this year, it says, encouraging sports chains to open 3.5 million sq ft of floorspace over the next two years. However, the report gives warning that the aggressive expansion plans will lead to a painful sector shakeout around the millennium when retail space becomes saturated.

The fashion legacy of Euro '96 helped last year's sportswear market to grow by 9 per cent to £2.7 billion last year, it says. Heavy advertising from brands such as Nike, Adidas and Puma is likely to stoke growth this year and next, helping sports retailers to steal market share from their rivals in regular clothing and footwear.

Verdict expects JD Sports and JJB Sports, the quoted sports retailers, to emerge as victors once the expansion plans collide as both have an authoritative range of shoes and clothes.

Sports Division, the largest sports retailer, is praised in the report for having the strongest market position and healthiest growth prospects. It is expected to see sales grow by a third to £310 million this year.

Poor managers behind failures

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

POOR business management is behind a rising number of insolvencies and an increase in debt levels among failed companies, a survey published today shows.

Failures due to poor cashflow or lack of working capital have risen rapidly in the past year - now accounting for 21 per cent of all failures, compared with 16 per cent in 1995-96, the Society of Practitioners of Insolvency said.

Separate data from the Confederation of British Industry, also published today,

shows that small businesses are also continuing to bear the brunt of strong pound and that business confidence, as a whole, is now at a five-year low.

The SPI annual survey found that the levels of debt borne by failed small businesses were now higher than any time since 1993. In spite of the improved economic conditions, insolvent small businesses now owe about £160 of debt for every £1 in turnover, compared with £117 in 1993.

The SPI estimates that poor management was responsible for the loss of 70,000 jobs in 1996-97, with about half of this figure directly due to a failure to

control cashflow and working capital. Brendan Gullifoye, SPI president, said: "It appears that a growing number of managers are still failing to heed the message that it does not matter whether you make a profit or not, if you don't have the cash in the bank to pay bills on time."

The Confederation of British Industry SME trends survey showed export orders falling markedly over the past four months and at a faster rate than among the manufacturing industry as a whole. Optimism about export orders also fell for the fifth consecutive survey, while overall business confidence fell at its fastest rate since October 1992.

MAM fund plans for early retirement

Mercury Asset Management is to launch a new pension fund designed to guard against unexpected early retirement resulting in a big loss of pension funds.

The Mercury Life pension stabiliser fund is designed to avoid the risk that a sudden decision to retire coincides with a sharp fall in equity prices or a surge in the cost of annuities.

The product is particularly aimed at consumers who use a system that already ensures pension funds are switched from equities to annuity investments during the run-up to expected retirement date. MAM said that the fund would typically be mainly invested in annuities but that a small part would each month be invested in equity options allowing the fund to benefit from market out-performance.

Allied Carpets

Hoare Govett, the house broker to Allied Carpets, has forecast a rise in pre-tax profits to £19 million for the financial year ending June 30, up 13.8 per cent from £16.7 million in the previous 12 months. (Tempus, January 27).

THE TIMES

A mackerel a day keeps asthma away.

Disciples of complementary medicine recommend an oily fish for treating asthma. Find out more in Healing, the first of six free guides to complementary medicine. Only in The Times, this Saturday.

<http://www.the-times.co.uk> CHANGING TIMES



COMPANIES 43 ICI profits expected to take pounding

BUSINESS

SEA CHANGE 45 Roger Bootle on the turning point for rates



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY FEBRUARY 2 1998

Threat to pensions watchdog by Mirror trustees

By Jason Nisse THE trustees of the Mirror Group pension scheme will this week decide whether to take Julian Farrand, the Pensions Ombudsman, to the High Court over a dispute about payments made from the fund.



Sir Richard Sykes approached SmithKline Beecham even though it had already announced plans to merge with American Home Products

Unions launch fight to save drugs merger jobs

BY JON ASHWORTH UNIONS are to hold emergency meetings this week to discuss the threat of 2,000 or more job losses at Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham (SB), which late on Friday announced plans to merge in a £100 billion deal, creating the world's biggest drugs company.



Leschly: changed tack

Central banks predict smooth start for euro

FROM JANET BUSH IN DAVOS EUROPEAN central bankers are predicting that the euro will be launched smoothly and that the single currency will challenge the supremacy of the dollar as the world's reserve currency.

Korea reopens talks with IMF

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT SOUTH KOREA said yesterday that it is reopening negotiations with the International Monetary Fund in an attempt to lower the country's crippling interest rates.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-24.

No 1318

- ACROSS: 1 Deceptive lightning (5,4) 2 Tiny taste from glass (3) 3 Workforce, surveying rod (5) 4 Rostrom; popular leader (7) 5 Stolid calmness (6) 6 Pivot joint; (philat) mount (5) 7 Grow strongly; prosper (6) 8 Forebly persuade (6) 9 (Ear) snail bone (5) 10 Roman soldiers' god (7) 11 10% tax (5) 12 Tear (3); farewell (1,1,1) 13 Unexecuting chef (5,4) SOLUTION TO NO 1317

Granada chief to stay until retirement

BY RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR GERRY ROBINSON, chairman of Granada, is prepared to commit himself to the media and hospitality group until he retires.

Currency expert aids Indonesia

STEVE Hanke, the American currency expert, is due to arrive in Indonesia today for talks with government officials about ways to rescue the rupiah (Ian Brodie writes).

Co-op divi makes a comeback

BY JON ASHWORTH The Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS) today launches a new 'divi' scheme, bringing loyalty cards to the neighbourhood store and spelling a revival for one of Britain's most famous shopping traditions.

Advertisement for Corby cement featuring a large circular logo and text: 'IN THE MIDDLE OF EVERYWHERE'.

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP advertisement listing various titles and prices.